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OCTOBER 2015



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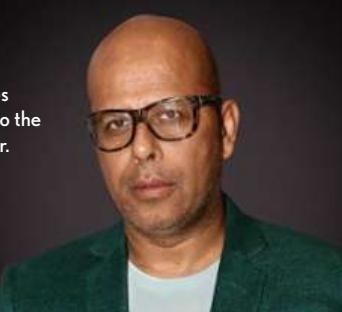
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# ARENA

A MAN'S WORLD



## GOBSMACKING GIULIA

The new Giulia Quadrifoglio Verde heads the rebirth of Alfa Romeo with an aggressive-looking, gorgeous body, and striking specs that will make its rivals feel uneasy.

by RONALD HUTAGALUNG

INSIDE

RUM IN THE TIME OF REVOLUTION  
MUSIC: THE FOUR BREAKOUT STARS  
THE CHANGING CULTURE OF ART





**LET'S MEET THE ALFA ROMEO GIULIA QUADRIFOGLIO**  
Verde (QV), a new-born shapely sport sedan which marked the Italian automaker's 105th anniversary and it's launched at the perfect time to come out from the shadow of European rivals, especially to hunt the BMW M3 and Jaguar XE. Alfa Romeo's Giulia sedan made its worldwide debut at the Alfa Romeo Museum in Milan and it's got enthusiasts of all sorts lined up.

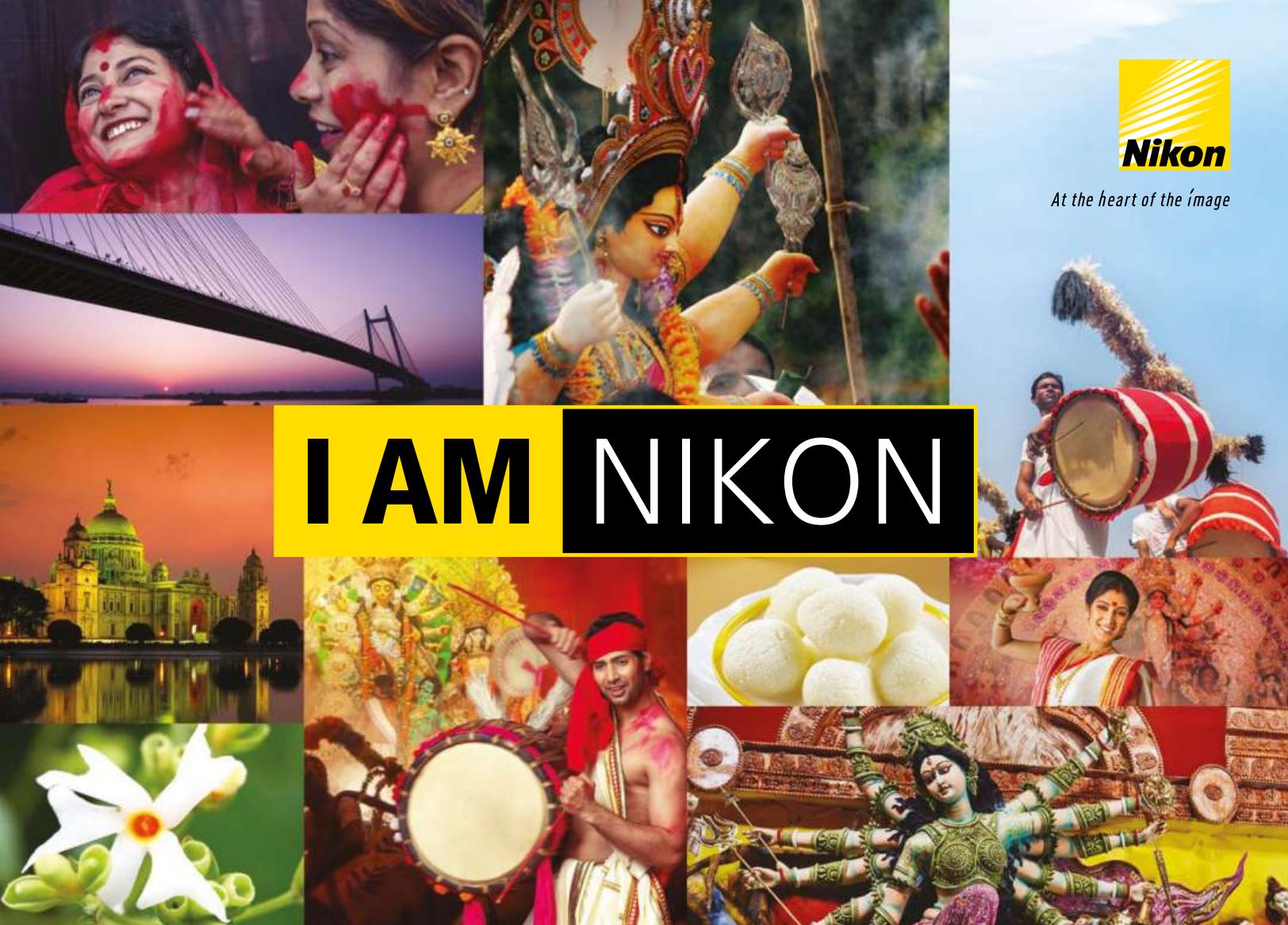
But what everyone is excited about is the fact that the Giulia will come equipped with a Ferrari-prepped, six-cylinder engine churning out 510 hp. With that engine, the car will go from 0-60 in just 3.9 seconds. The machine is also equipped with a cylinder deactivation feature to keep the fuel consumption down when you are in normal drive mode.

For precision handling, Giulia is already equipped with all-aluminium suspension which is paired with double-wishbone suspension 'semi-virtual steering axis' on the front. Giulia will use Rear Wheel Drive, but you also have a 4WD option on all other models. The Alfa Romeo Giulia also claims to have a perfect 50:50 weight distribution thanks largely to the use of aluminium in the construction of the entire car, including body panels, and a roof made of carbon fibre. Alfa Romeo is not messing around when it comes to the Giulia and it definitely makes our list of one of the most exciting cars of 2016!



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# RUM AND REVOLUTION

More intoxicating than a drink are the memories it evokes. For Rick Bragg, rum conjures a ramshackle bar in wartime Port-au-Prince.

The bar in Pétionville leaned drunkenly on a hillside. The power came and went, plunging the city into darkness at intervals, lingering just long enough to keep the beer cool in the ancient ice chest. But it was too dark a time for beer.

Haiti was, as usual in the early 1990s, bathed in blood, but men never drink as much as they do between funerals, and there were so many of them in Port-au-Prince those days that the processions often intersected. Pétionville was an upscale section, at a lofty remove from the vast slums at the waterfront, but even here among the rich folks, you could feel the country sliding deeper into violence. The democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, had fled, and the poor Haitians who had put him in office were being murdered amid a military coup.

A rock or a chunk of concrete, something hard, struck the wall of the bar in the pitch-black.

The men at the bar, writers and photographers and genuine expatriates, scarcely flinched; it was only serious when it was bullets and machetes.

"Barbancourt?" the bartender said. The men answered in French. He poured the rum straight.

It tasted like sweet, harsh, liquid smoke. It tasted like the place, redolent of Haiti's deep magic and rich and tortured history. It was easy to believe, after a glass or three, in incantations, and in the stumbling, moaning dead. But I knew it was the living you had to fear in Haiti.

I sat numb as the men spoke about the killing, and the embargo, and the possibility of a US invasion. Or at least I think that was what they were talking about. I was pretty ignorant of French, and drunk and sleepy. But I never forgot that taste.

I had it again years later in a white-tablecloth restaurant in New Orleans, the Uppeline. I had another, and in my head I drifted across the water.

So this is why they call it spirits.



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From left: Sturgill Simpson, The Weeknd, Waxahatchee and Earl Sweatshirt.

**LISTEN UP!**

## FOUR BREAKOUT ARTISTS TO STREAM RIGHT NOW

**STURGILL SIMPSON**

He's a throwback country crooner who fills his swaggering, Merle Haggard-style twang with big-think lyrics about the cosmos and the meaning of life.  
**Stream this:** "Turtles All the Way Down"

**THE WEEKND**

Atmospheric, grooving, and unapologetically sexy—that's what you get from a breakout R&B Romeo with a bedroom-ready album called *Kiss Land*. Light some candles. Many candles.  
**Stream this:** "King of the Fall"

**WAXAHATCHEE**

Alabama-born Katie Crutchfield makes raggedly beautiful indie pop. Her new album, *Ivy Tripp*, is a sonic breakthrough sure to be the fall soundtrack of the disaffected youth in your life.  
**Stream this:** "Under a Rock"

**EARL SWEATSHIRT**

Part of the L.A. hip-hop collective, Odd Future, Sweatshirt's brutally honest, bass-heavy, and brilliantly considered *I Don't Like Shit, I Don't Go Outside* is one of the best rap albums of the year.  
**Stream this:** "Grown Ups"

**POP QUIZ**  
"WHAT  
ARE YOU  
PSYCHED  
ABOUT NOW?"

**JULIA STONE**

"**Blake Mills** is incredible—he's a guitarist from L.A. He has some great records we've been playing."

**ANGUS STONE**

"There's a band called the **Walking Who** from Australia. Those guys are doing some cool shit!"

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## ART STAR

# THE EERIE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DANIEL ARSHAM

A SCULPTOR  
BELOVED BY  
PHARRELL AND  
USHER TRIES HIS  
HAND AT  
FILMMAKING.

CONCEPTUAL ARTIST DANIEL ARSHAM KNOWS how fast the fetish objects of one era can become the detritus of another. He was 12 when Hurricane Andrew ripped through his family's home as he huddled in a closet. The next morning, Arsham wandered around the Miami cul-de-sac, spotting his family's photos and other belongings. "I don't remember it as traumatic," he says. "It was just sort of fascinating."

It's not hard to see how the experience informed his artwork, which includes painting, set design, architecture, film, and sculpture, most famously an ongoing series of pieces in which he casts various iconic objects—from a Casio keyboard and a Benz steering wheel to basketballs and boxing trunks—in volcanic ash, obsidian, and other elemental materials. The

haunting result is a little like the Statue of Liberty scene at the end of *Planet of the Apes*: The disconcerting experience of stumbling on the ruined evidence of our own destruction.

While Arsham's work is in museum collections around Europe and Asia and has won over legions of fans, including Pharrell Williams and Usher, "the art world has never really welcomed me in," he says. This fall, the Galerie Perrotin will host his first major solo show in New York. Meanwhile, the artist is set to release his feature-film debut, an eerie nine-part science-fiction epic called *Future Relic*, starring Juliette Lewis and James Franco.

Despite the apocalyptic thread in his work, Arsham doesn't lose much sleep over the fate of civilisation. "I love the future!" he says. "One thousand percent." —Aaron Gell



## BUILDING HIGHER

### BJARKE INGELS

In his homeland of Denmark, he's created mountain-shaped apartment buildings, designed an energy plant that doubles as a ski slope, and won the competition to design the Lego House experience centre. Now Bjarke Ingels is bringing his topsy-turvy vision to Manhattan's West Side with W57. Set to open this year, the 750-unit apartment building by Ingels' design group, BIG, will tweak the city's skyline. A laid-back answer to the typical skyscraper, the tetrahedron will dip in three corners and surround a massive interior courtyard, opening up the views and letting in tons of light. So while the unusual shape sets it apart, the building still manages to fit seamlessly into its surroundings. —Jeff Nesmith

Clockwise from left:  
Arsham with some  
of his cast artifacts;  
Ingels' NYC  
tetrahedron;  
Bone chairs by  
Laarman.



## BY DESIGN

### JORIS

### LAARMAN

Whether combining the enzymes of a firefly with the ovary cells of a hamster to power a lamp or using software that mimics human bone growth to create his iconic "Bone" chair, Dutch wunderkind Joris Laarman is constantly pushing the conceptual boundaries. It's Mother Nature meets high-tech.  
—Maura Egan

# AGENDA

---

MAN WITH A PLAN



# WHO IS HUBERT?

Ten years and not counting...that's how long **Hubert Kriegel** has been on the road in his sidecar. When the former NYC businessman set out to ride around the world, he vaguely thought the trip would last a decade. But the magic of traversing roads, countries and continents led him on what the now 68-year-old aptly labels 'The Timeless Ride.' A story of the ultimate road trip that everyone yearns for, and a few accomplish.

by AJAY KHULLAR

**THERE ARE MEN WHO SPEND DECADES AS** hardened corporate suits, till it dawns on them that they are actually bikers. I spent 18 years riding an Enfield until I realised I was really a suit. It is both ironical and poetically just that I should be penning this story of a man who pushed the boundaries until they gave way, who—by his own admission—has achieved his life's dream, and, having done that, has decided to keep going.

## THE MAN

In a city like Leh, everybody and their cousin is a biker. Most, though, turn bikers in Manali, from where they rent motorcycles (driving up from the plains) and ride for 19 hours to reach the Himalayan city. And because everybody rides mostly the same thing, people here don't turn their heads when a bike goes past, though there is an unspoken camaraderie between all bikers.

I sat perched in the sidecar of Hubert Kriegel's (aged 68) Ural motorcycle as he glided his way through the streets of Leh. Not one person, not two, but many stopped to stare, smile and wave at Hubert. This is not an exaggeration. Hubert and his sidecar could compete for attention even if Marilyn Monroe's skirt was defying gravity at that very moment.

We pull up outside Wonderland Café on Changspa Street. As he parks, a curious American walks up and strikes up a conversation. Others follow. A few minutes later, as we are seated at the café, Hubert smiles and explains, "It's not me, it's the sidecar that's popular and gets the attention. When I stop, people gather around it. I stay close to the bike, a little attention gets passed on to me."

He's being self-deprecating, though. You wouldn't miss Hubert on the street, even if he ditched his sidecar.

I liked Hubert the moment I first saw him—and that's the bad part. I have, like many of my generation, graduated from the school of cynicism—for us, a good thing is usually too good to be true.

I first met him in Delhi when he walked into my *barsati* with a common friend, Jay Kannaiyan. Hubert was funny, positive and wore the flashiest red, round glasses I have ever seen (the glasses were designed for him by New York-based Selima Optics in 1995 and named The Hubert). For a man who confesses to be of shy disposition, the attention-grabbing glasses were a contradiction. "The glasses are not there for me to see you—but for you to see me," he says and removes his glasses. "Now you don't see me—I am just a face in the crowd," and, putting them back on, he smiles, "Now, I am Hubert, boom!"

That evening Hubert told me a story... and it was this story that took me up to Leh in his footsteps.

## THE STORY

It's often the people who are opposites to us that show us the truth about our lives.

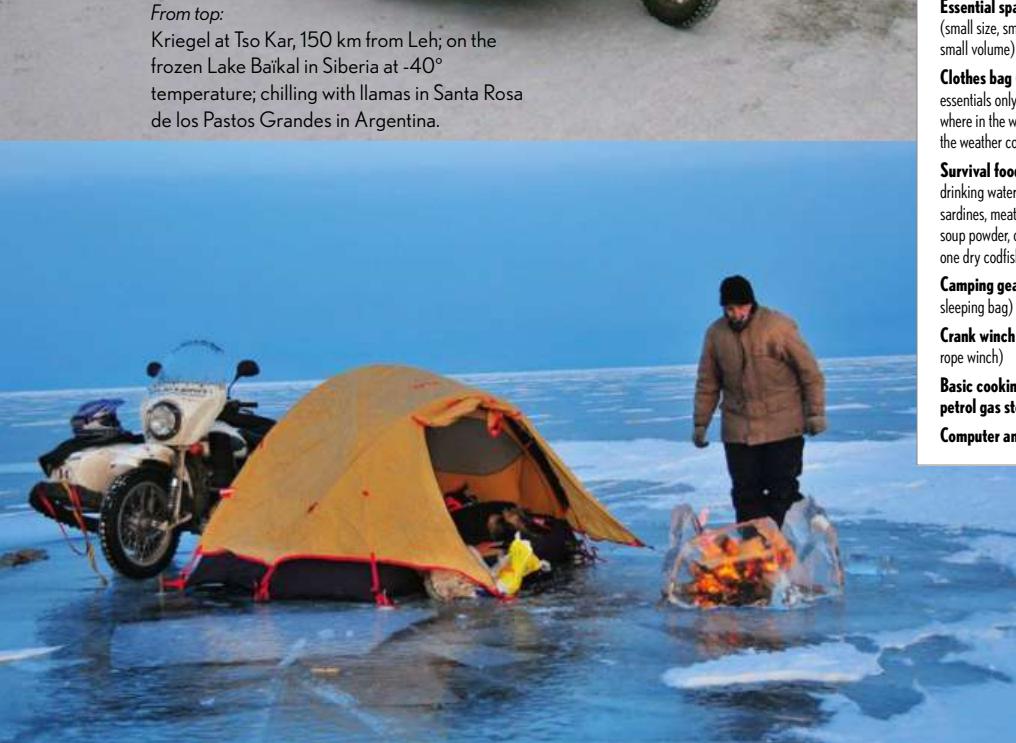
In November 2004, Hubert, then aged 57, sat across his friend, Jean-Louis, in a Manhattan restaurant called L'Orange Bleue. Jean-Louis was a perfume-maker and, unlike Hubert (who has been in the red most of his life), was a well-established man. The conversation drifted to the economy and then personal economics and Jean-Louis said he believed that no matter how much money you made, by the end of the year your pockets were usually empty. Hubert shrugged (for his pockets were empty many seasons in a year), and then Jean-Louis asked what Hubert planned to do now that he had wound up his graphic arts business and his youngest daughter, Jessica, had graduated from college... in short, what he was going to do with the rest of his life.

There was no obvious answer so, as an alternative the two friends looked at non-obvious scenarios as they ordered the main course. Travel, for instance.

On a table napkin they began to calculate how much money would be needed to travel for a year. As the calculations grew more intricate, Hubert realised that if he sold



From top:  
Kriegel at Tso Kar, 150 km from Leh; on the frozen Lake Baikal in Siberia at -40° temperature; chilling with llamas in Santa Rosa de los Pastos Grandes in Argentina.



### WHAT HUBERT CARRIES IN THE SIDECAR

**Essential spare parts**  
(small size, small weight, small volume)

**Clothes bag** (carries essentials only, depending on where in the world he is and the weather conditions there)

**Survival food** (10 litres drinking water, can of sardines, meat spread, soup powder, coffee, one dry codfish)

**Camping gear** (tent, sleeping bag)

**Crank winch** (a sturdy rope winch)

**Basic cooking utensils and petrol gas stove**

**Computer and camera**

everything he had and completely liquidated himself, he would have enough to travel on a tight budget in the sidecar he owned for the next 10 years.

By the time Hubert got to dessert, he had had an epiphany: “If I worked for the next 10 years, I would be poor, or, if I travelled for 10 years I would still be poor after that...boom.”

By the time coffee got to the table, Hubert had made his decision.

Soon after Hubert did a conference call with his three daughters—Lucie, Eve and Jessica—to announce that he was selling everything he had and going on the road for 10 years. Yes, there was much excitement but also worry—what would he do after 10 years, how would he survive?

“When you see an old man mopping the floor at McDonalds, be nice to him—that could be me after 10 years, and I would do it gladly.”

On February 16, 2005, at 6.04 am, as New York was still to awake from a freezing night, Hubert quietly got on his sidecar and rode into the sun.

### THE TIMELESS RIDE

Don't save the hardest for the last—simply because when you are on the road, what you perceive to be difficult might only be a precursor of things yet to come. And, as Hubert says, “While riding, failure is always an option.”

Hubert was born in Paris in 1946, a year after the Second World War, in a simple working class home, where there was always food on the table, and yet you lived one day at a time. Hubert didn't fit in—neither at school, nor at home—and his mother tried to convince him that he was beautiful and smart, while he knew he was really dyslexic and built like a shrimp. The mandatory time in the French army, an unsuccessful stint as a real estate



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## "IN MY NEXT LIFE I WANT TO BE LIKE RAMBO AND STEVEN SEAGAL—AND FEEL NO FEAR."

broker in his father's firm, running a cabaret nightclub—these were merely events in a life ordinary.

Scattered over the first 50 years of Hubert's are some events that contradict the life he was leading and finally qualify the life he came to choose when he went on the road in 2005.

With day temperatures at -40° Celsius, Hubert began his journey traversing 9,200 km from New York City on the Alaska Highway to Dawson city in Canada, the starting point on the Dempster highway (1,000 km of gravel road), which takes you above the Arctic Circle to Inuvik town and the Ice Road to Tuktoyaktuk (over the frozen Mackenzie river).

The challenge on this stretch was as much physical (he was riding 400 km a day under harsh conditions) as mental. One day Hubert stopped in the middle of the Dempster highway and realised he was completely alone in the world—or at least for tens of miles, with not a fuel pump, not a car nor a human being around. He was terrified and wanted to turn back.

"That is the reality of fear. I experience fear every morning; every day I am on the road—am I going to break down, meet with an accident, fall sick, get mugged? In my next life I want to be like Rambo and Steven Seagal—and feel no fear."

Fear Hubert might not have been able to shed but, as he says, he did let go of the sham he had been keeping up all these years. All his life—running a nightclub in Paris, real estate and the graphic arts businesses in the US—he had been selling and he had never been good at it. And that life hadn't been good to him. He had led a stressful farce for three decades plus. Now, on the road, in his sidecar, he his only companion, he was real. A great talker, funny and completely and utterly positive, that was the Hubert I met 11 years into the journey he calls the timeless ride.

For the first three-and-a-half years, Hubert rode across North and South America. His preparation when entering a new country was quite basic—the paperwork was immaculate, a travel guidebook gave him the basic history of the place and with a reliable map, he was good

to hit the road. He did not beat himself up if he missed something or everything on the tourist checklist.

"I would see something else. I don't do forts, churches and mosques—I do the countryside, mountains and remote areas."

Talk remote—and he begins to narrate a story about travelling to Antarctica on a modern, jazzed-up boat called the *Explorer*. Out on the deck with the Second Officer, as the *Explorer* expertly navigated her way through icebergs, Hubert thought, "The *Titanic* was stupid!" But life is full of contradictions—a year later, when he was in South America, news came that the *Explorer* also now lay at the bottom of the sea after colliding with an iceberg.

On a journey as long as this, preconceived notions come to naught—as you begin to see the world outside in—like the first traveller of yore, making sense and yet not completely understanding the functioning of the world you passed through. Hubert crossed over from Chile into Bolivia with the knowledge that "Nobody likes Chile in South America." He wondered why and, while dining with a group of South Americans in Bolivia, asked the question outright.

"Because of the war," Hubert was told.

"What war?"

"The war of Atacama."

"That was a long time ago, in 1873!"

Hubert was somewhat surprised, but was understanding as he went along that many hatchets had still to be buried the world over.

So was the case with long-held childhood impressions. Given his French upbringing, he approached the Russian border with "some fear." He was taken aback by the unexpected hospitality of the Russians. He had meant to use it only as a passage to Mongolia, but ended up spending six months in the countryside of Russia.

And then, in November 2009, at the onset of winter, he reached his "favourite country in the world"—Mongolia.

"There are two Mongolias—one that exists in Ulan Bator, a fast-growing city, where life is difficult and there's misery all around and

where I happened to get mugged (it could have happened in any part of the world) and then 20 km out of Ulan Bator is the Mongolia I love, where the nomads stay. They live in the steppes and the Gobi Desert with the same simplicity, the same value and family systems that they lived with thousands of years ago."

Hubert stayed for months with a nomadic family in their yurt (a portable, round tent), living their way of life and loving it.

Africa was a continent Hubert loved riding through. "Africa is great. I love the people... they see you approach and they offer you a smile, water and food and, if you count to 10... they ask for money."

A digression here—for most tourists and even seasoned travellers, travel is often a form of escape from reality. It was surprising to learn how up-to-date Hubert was about current world affairs (the upcoming US elections were his favourite subject). He would download news podcasts whenever he found an opportunity, while also sending his story out to the world through a website he maintained while on the road ([thetimelessride.com](http://thetimelessride.com)).

Two other interesting facts about the man and his journey: While he has travelled over a million miles through more than 60 countries (some were before the timeless ride), he has never met with an accident on the road and he did not seek any sponsorship for his over 10 years' long journey.

While Hubert has been on the road for more than a decade, what happened to his family and his relationship with them?

"It's complicated!" he laughs. As his daughters would say, he's been married three times and divorced three times—but he disagrees. "I've been married twice and divorced one-and-a-half times. My second marriage to Lorraine (a professor of dance at the University of Rochester, who he considers his soul mate) is still valid in France (he was divorced in the Dominican Republic, which is not recognised in France)."

He says he's been there for Lorraine and Francoise (his first wife, who suffered from ALS disease and passed away in July-end while



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this story was being written). He has been travelling to Paris and New York for spring break and Christmas to be with them, and daughter Jessica joined him on his journey through Nepal last month.

"There's no universal secret to making a marriage work. Each couple has to figure it out. Lorraine is fulfilling her passion for dance and I have my passion for travel and the sidecar."

There's been a price to pay, though—his elder daughters, Eve and Lucie, have begun to see Hubert's action of undertaking a long journey as "irresponsible", and the relationship became difficult to the point they do not speak anymore.

"I have been available to my family. If my wife needs me, I'll fly out tomorrow, but I tell my daughters, it's their life and this is my life. I have always supported them and their choices, but if they tell me not to do it (travel)...then too bad!"

#### RIDING THROUGH INDIA

What do you do when you stand at the final milestone—when the target has been achieved? Do you turn back, and return to doing exactly what you walked away from? Hubert completed 10 years on the road with the sidecar in February this year. He felt the way he had after the Ice Road ride—relieved. He had budgeted for 10 years and though that money had run out, he got unexpected relief in the form of pension from the US and French governments.

"I knew I would not stop. I was now on the road for good. I do not have the same physical and mental capability I had 10 years ago—but that's part of life."

In September 2014 Hubert flew into Mumbai, his sidecar following him by ship from Cape Town. Like he had done while travelling through other countries, he adapted fast to the subcontinent and its roads. "While on Indian roads, it's first come, first serve. If you can find space, you squeeze your vehicle ahead of others—traffic might get jammed but it'll move eventually. You have to adapt. And if there aren't cars jamming the roads of Mumbai, then it's people playing cricket who

are." That was his first impression of Mumbai—that Sunday was a sacred cricket-playing day in the city, when every street in the Fort area, where he was staying, turned into a playfield.

Hubert might or might not have been game for cricket, but the street food of Mumbai bowled him over and the ferry ride he took from one beach of the city to its other end had him worrying about his sidecar. "It was a drive of 40 km plus if you didn't take the ferry but, as I told my friends in Mumbai, my motto is don't forget to take risk today and I had taken my risk with the sidecar for the day. I chose to ride back."

When you spend thousands of days on the road, you meet thousands of people and they become your students as well as teachers. Hubert says that people, strangers open up to him, often sharing their life secrets with him. "Absolute strangers get quite candid with me, they tell me everything. I think this is because I seem to wear a billboard of a 'traveller' on my forehead. They can trust me—for I always leave and their secrets leave with me."

Hubert has been in India since September last year (returning to the US and France for a few months to meet his family) and he's ridden from Mumbai to Goa for India Bike Week (surprisingly, he didn't take a shine to Goa) and then onwards to Bengaluru and Coorg with two bikers he met at IBW, Santosh and Sangeetha. (His connect with Sangeetha was instant—she first defied her family as she wanted to ride bikes and then when, on the first day after marriage, her husband ordered, "No more bikes," she quietly replied, "No more marriage"). Travelling to Coorg, Sangeetha's ancestral home, he had an interesting observation: "Riding in Coorg is mission impossible—you take a road that's on your map and 20 km down you hit a fence, it's all private property and I did not want a shotgun going off in my direction. Riding in the coffee district was like making your way through a maze."

Having travelled the southern circuit (South India for Hubert was a land of immaculate landscape, especially the surrounds of Ooty and Kerala), he made his way back to Mumbai. With summer temperatures soaring to 46

degrees Celsius in the north of the country, Hubert rode towards Delhi via Ahmedabad, meeting a new set of fellow travellers—truck drivers. "I love riding and spending time with truck drivers. I speak their language. There is a certain monotony that comes with long hours on the road—a certain common language develops. You will find very few jovial truck drivers—they are usually taciturn."

It hasn't rubbed off on Hubert, though—the man, with his crooked Sylvester Stallone-like smile—is all charm, especially when there are ladies in the audience. "No, no...everybody loves Hubert," he laughs "Except the Americans with their money!"

From Delhi he travelled for a single day into Nepal from Haldwani in Uttarakhand to renew his papers for the temporary import of the motorcycle into India and then took the route through the lower Himalaya to Srinagar.

"It was a traveller's dream ride, with very remote villages where they had never seen a Western traveller. When I would enter a village, 500 people would gather and grab me. With basic tools of communication, I would request a meal and a bed—the answer would always be yes!"

As I rode with Hubert in his sidecar along the moonscapic landscape of Ladakh (we travelled to Nimo—the starting point for rafting expeditions on the Indus, and to Tso Kar, a high altitude lake, 150 km from Leh), I realised a few things about the man I was profiling. He would often greet other travellers on the way and without fail wave to the local workers on the highway. It was a connection he was establishing.

This wasn't a businessman or salesperson who had tired of his job and family and found a mode of escape. This wasn't an explorer either—he cared little for historical antiquities. Nor had he lost his mind or, as accused, shunned his responsibilities. He was curious, sure, but was too unconventional a traveller to fit the tourist mode. After having spent a week with him, I wondered who indeed Hubert was.

So I asked him exactly that. "Hubert, who are you?"

His lips twisting, he smiled broadly and replied, "I'm still a kid, dreaming." □

*Clockwise from top:*  
Riding through the  
Andes at Paso Socompa  
between Chile and  
Argentina; making  
friends with penguins in  
Peninsula Valdes,  
Patagonia; a reasonable  
meal of only 10 eggs en  
route; serene riding at  
Tso Kar in Ladakh;  
embarking on the boat  
ride to Manori Island  
in Mumbai



# HOT TRACKS

Why building the perfect sex playlist can bring more than just beats to your bedroom.

by LIZZY GOODMAN

## **CREATING THE PROPER MUSICAL**

accompaniment for a romantic evening is every bit as critical as washing the sheets. The wrong songs could send your potential bedmate trooping out into the night, while a well-considered playlist can help set just the right vibe. You don't want to be the guy cluelessly streaming free Spotify or SoundCloud, getting assaulted by mood-ruining ads for a local community college or the new *Imagine Dragons* album every 10 minutes, do you? Herewith, some essential rules for constructing the ultimate "sexxy" playlist:

"For me, it's a lot of Frank Ocean, the Knife, Zola Jesus, the National—basically, the same songs you'd play if you suffer from chronic depression," says comedian Whitney Cummings. "The hardest part is naming it so it's not just called 'Sex Mix' on your computer." For Channing Tatum, who has been widely linked to a bump-and-grind-y YouTube collection, "2014 Sex Songs Mix Bedroom Magic," it's likely Chris Brown, Ludacris, and Trey Songz. And for Katy Perry, it's all about the classics: "Marvin Gaye and Jeff Buckley," she has said, adding that she's also addicted to the raunchy bedroom throb of the Weeknd's "Often."

"That song is entirely about getting head from a dude," raves Sarah Lewitinn, also known as Ultragrrrl, a New York City music director for Aritzia. "Basically, the Weeknd is the new Prince, the new R. Kelly. You really can't go wrong."

One of the advantages of living in a society where someone, somewhere, is always listening, is that we no longer have to wonder how our between-the-sheets playlists compare to everyone else's; that's what Spotify is for. The streaming giant recently revealed the tracks most commonly included in its 2.5 million user-created sex playlists. "Intro," the moody instrumental by the XX, claimed the number one spot. ("They should just rename that band XXX," cracks Cummings.) Also in the top 10 were songs by Coldplay, Chet Faker, and Hozier. "That's disturbing," says Melissa, a 24-year-old fashion buyer. "I don't want someone thrusting into me while Hozier

sings, 'Take me to church.' It's just not right."

The "right" mix generally depends on the woman in question. "If a guy just went for it and put on Beyoncé's album, I'd ride him like a surfboard," enthuses Melissa, while Lewitinn views that particular choice as sending a questionable signal about a man's orientation. Genevieve, 25, who works in retail, prefers to have sex "while listening to something gangsta-J. Cole, Too Short, Rick Ross, Mac Dre, Ja Rule. I could do that for the rest of my life and be totally content." She still feels a special invigoration whenever she hears the Wu-Tang Clan, as it brings back fond, multiorgasmic memories of an afternoon spent vigorously copulating to three albums' worth of the Wu. But such old-school boom-bap doesn't do it for Cummings: "Most rap is a pretty big no-no for me, because it's all about bitches and hos. Also, obviously you want me to go at a speed that is going to hurt my back."

Hey, you can't please everyone! Fortunately, there's basic agreement on sex-playlist guidelines:

**Plan for two distinct phases.** The ideal playlist accounts for foreplay and the main event. Kick it off with something "soothing and vibe-y," Melissa advises. Think Drake or Kendrick Lamar. "Then, as things heat up, it gets more sensual, more bass-y." (Hint: That's when you segue to the new D'Angelo album.)

**Don't play anything too distracting.** "The music should be a complement, not a distraction," Lewitinn says. This means no songs with a lot of nostalgic significance.

**"IF A GUY JUST WENT FOR IT AND PUT ON BEYONCÉ'S ALBUM, I'D RIDE HIM LIKE A SURFBOARD," SAYS MELISSA, 24.**

"You don't want halfway through sex for me to be like, 'Oh, shit! This was my jam!'" Cummings says. "No Montell Jordan's 'This Is How We Do It.' One time a guy put on Spotify with me and 'No Diggity' came on, and I could not stop laughing, because in high school that was my anthem."

**Maintain a steady rhythm.** "Keep it all generally the same tempo," Cummings says. "If you jump right from Beck to Nine Inch Nails, I'm going to feel pressure to change our tempo."

**Don't make your playlist too long.** Thirty to 45 minutes is fine, unless you're aiming for some kind of Sting-style tantric-sex marathon (even if you are, never play Sting's solo albums during sex; it's a scientific fact that your penis will recede back into your body). "Just to be safe, the last 10 minutes should be a little more subtle. I'm way more worried about an intense song ruining my after-sex relaxation than a slower song coming on in the middle of having sex, because I probably won't notice that anyway," Melissa adds.

**Don't skip music in favour of ill-considered background TV.** "One time I had sex with a guy while *Family Guy* was on, and they were singing that song 'You Have Full-Blown AIDS,'" recalls Lewitinn. "Not cool."

Bottom line: Just pay attention. If she's not feeling that LCD Soundsystem remix or Notorious B.I.G. mash-up for whatever reason, just grab your phone off the nightstand and skip it.

"It's a lot like the feeling-out process in an MMA fight: Does she want to keep this standing up, or take it to the ground?" muses Nick, a 35-year-old writer who enjoys a formidable track record in the bedroom.

"When it comes time to push play and go at it, there's not a chance your mix will exactly match the act itself. But you're still getting laid, right? If anyone ever stopped banging you and blamed the mix—I hate to break it to you, dude, but it probably wasn't the mix."

Cummings agrees. "After all, if you rely too much on music, maybe you just need to get better at sex." M



# VAMPIRE, DETECTIVE AND LEGEND

During a career spanning almost 70 years **Christopher Lee** portrayed several memorable characters. Here's a look back at one of the most talented artistes of our time.

by LUIS MIGUEL CRUZ/MAXIM MEXICO

EVEN THOUGH IT CURRENTLY IS impossible to imagine the movies without his brilliant performances, few know that his life could have taken a path far from the limelight if he had followed in the footsteps of his family's military tradition. His real acting vocation began at an early age, with appearances in which he played characters he would later on in life, as a professional, play again.

Unfortunately, the young man had to confront all kinds of obstacles before being able to begin a true acting career: The loss of a scholarship, bankruptcy and war-like conflicts that ended with the breakout of the Second World War. It was then that the idealistic Lee offered himself as a volunteer of the Royal Air Force, and was incorporated in the department of Special Operations with the mission to locate war criminals.

When everything indicated that the life of the Brit would be centralised in the militia, a reborn Lee decided to follow the advice of a cousin and try his luck in acting. After a few rejects—some producers complained about his height—the actor made his debut on the big screen with *Corridor Of Mirrors* (1948) under the direction of Terence Young, and his fledgling career would continue with numerous supporting roles in movies like *Hamlet* (Laurence Olivier, 1948), *Quo Vadis* (Mervyn LeRoy, 1951) and *Moulin Rouge* (John Huston, 1952).

## ON THE WAY TO THE TOP

The legend began after his arrival at Hammer Films, where he took part in countless horror films until he got the opportunity to personify the most popular character created by Bram Stoker in *Dracula* (Terence Fisher, 1958). The role was not an easy one, because the Brit was up against the figure of Bela Lugosi, who was considered the best interpreter of the Count. But Lee fulfilled the task and was able to interpret the Count on 10 occasions and became even more memorable than his predecessor in this vampire legacy.

In spite of his contributions in the horror

genre, the actor did not seem interested in continuing to explore it. He commented that "lately there have been terrible films, physically repelling. What we did was fantasy, fairytales: Nobody could copy what we achieved. But they could do what Hannibal Lecter does, and that is why I think those films are dangerous."

Instead, he decided to embark on another type of project, which permitted him to give life to heroes of the Sherlock Holmes and Fu Manchu era, to mention a few.

Many people think his best acting roles came with despicable villains like Lord Summerisle (*The Wicker Man*, 1973) and Francisco Scaramanga (*The Man With The Golden Gun*, 1974) as he brought a sobriety to them. Curiously, this made people refer to him as a "rough guy," to which he responded: "I am much more soft than what people think. I am very good at self-control, but I am moved very easily."

The years passed and some people thought that the popularity of the actor was diminishing with age, but the '90s arrived and with them a reappearance of Lee which

**WE CANNOT FORGET HIS OTHER ROLES FOR CONTEMPORARY AUDIENCES, WHICH TURNED HIM INTO A SYMBOL OF POPULAR CULTURE: *THE LORD OF THE RINGS* AND *STAR WARS*.**

permitted him to conquer new generations with a modest, but unforgettable, interpretation of Doctor Catheter (*Gremlins 2*, 1990). After that he acted in *Sleepy Hollow* (1999), in a partnership with Tim Burton that continued in movies like *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory* (2005), *Corpse Bride* (2005) and *Alice In Wonderland* (2011).

## GREAT CHARACTERS

This second golden run also let him play his favourite character in all his filmography: Mohammed Ali Jinnah. The actor would

describe him as a "man of vision, incorruptible, of great integrity, brilliant and founder of Pakistan." He remembered his work with nostalgia, saying that "*Jinnah* (1998) is a movie that unfortunately many have not been able to see, but should see."

Also, we cannot forget his other roles for contemporary audiences, which turned him into a symbol of popular culture: *The Lord Of The Rings* and *Star Wars*.

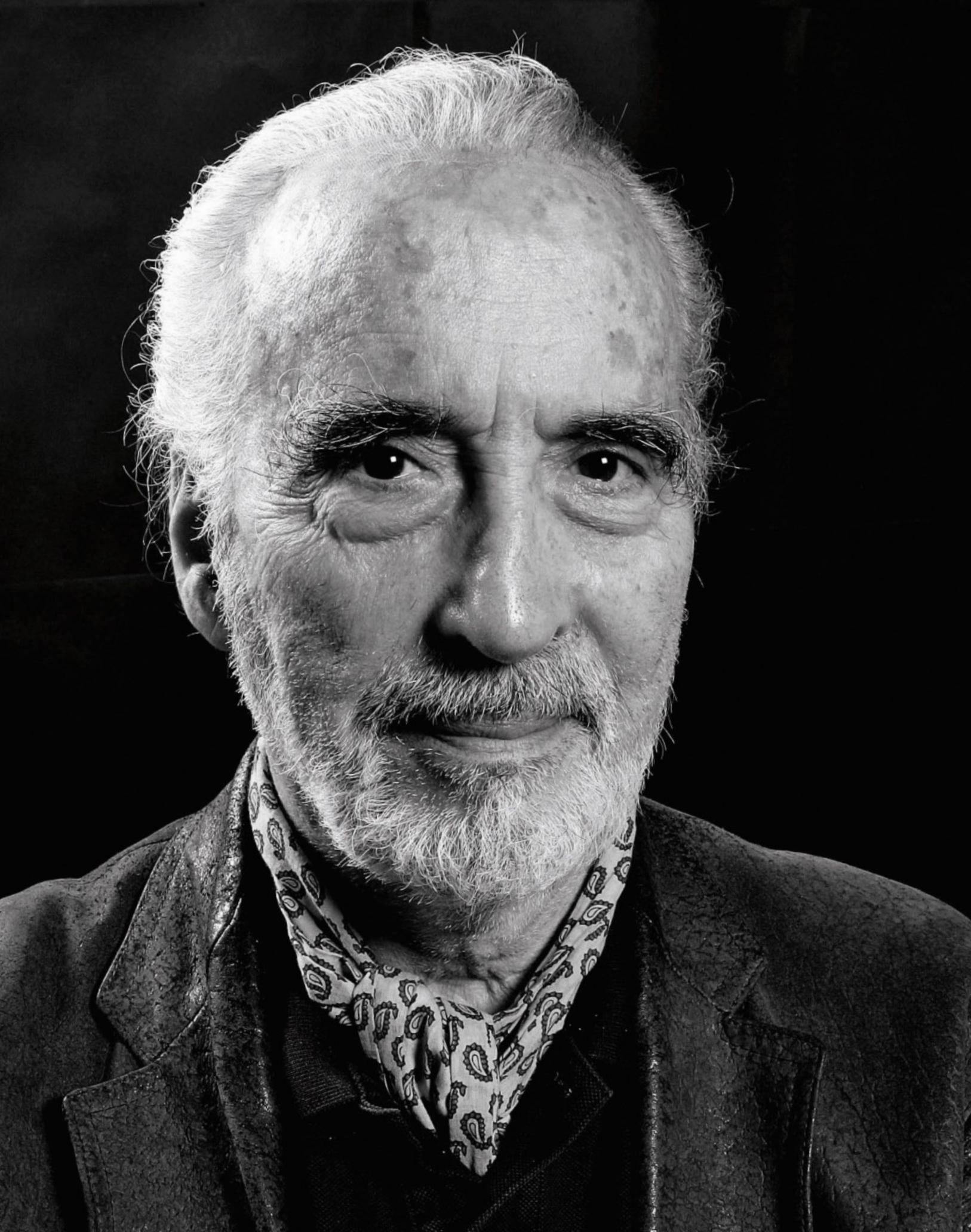
The trilogy directed by Peter Jackson showed us an 80-year-old actor as a dreary Saruman. But this is not all, because Lee was the only member of the crew and cast who actually knew the writer, J.R.R. Tolkien, whom he remembered as "A man with a benign eye, smoking a pipe, an Englishman of the country, with soiled shoes. And he was a genius, a man with an incredible intellect."

On the other hand, George Lucas took advantage of the Brit's elegance to present him as a Jedi seduced by the dark side: The infamous Count Dooku. Because of his age and failing health, he would be forced to move away every time from such scenarios, but Lee would accept small roles to hang on to his

passion. It is needless to say that retirement never crossed his mind, because he would constantly reassure: "It is not for me. I hate staying still: Like dear Boris (Karloff) used to say, when I die, I want to die with my boots on. Which he did. As did Vincent (Price) and Peter (Cushing)."

And so it was the last film of Lee would come in 2015 with the recounting of the *Extraordinary Tales*. Yes, exactly the same year of his death.

There are people who think that the Brit will never be listed among the great legends of celluloid, a place reserved for winners of statuettes or youngsters who passed away in unfortunate circumstances. As absurd as it can seem, Christopher Lee never attended the Oscars and his greatest achievement was a simple honorary BAFTA. None of this is important to us, because the biggest merit of an actor rests in his unforgettable portrayals, which will remain through many generations to come. **M**



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There are currently four varieties on offer on their official website, which all build from the same concept but dramatically change the aesthetic and, therefore, attitude you'll be taking out onto the streets. It's considered a commuter bike, but can still reach 80 kmph when desired—using a horizontal Honda 4-stroke engine ranging from 49cc to 125cc—which is a fair bit of toe. The exercise benefits of the pedalling need little explanation, but it also helps the environment get fit, as you can get 600 km on a litre of fuel with this thing... if you wanted to cruise inter-state!

They're sturdy things and YouTube already has plenty of clips with daredevils busting airs and chucking wheelies as they terrorise local parks and footpaths. These things are a crazy amount of fun, distinctly different from anything else out on the road and allow you to get to the pub quicker, which can't exactly hurt.

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by HEE JIN CHAE\*



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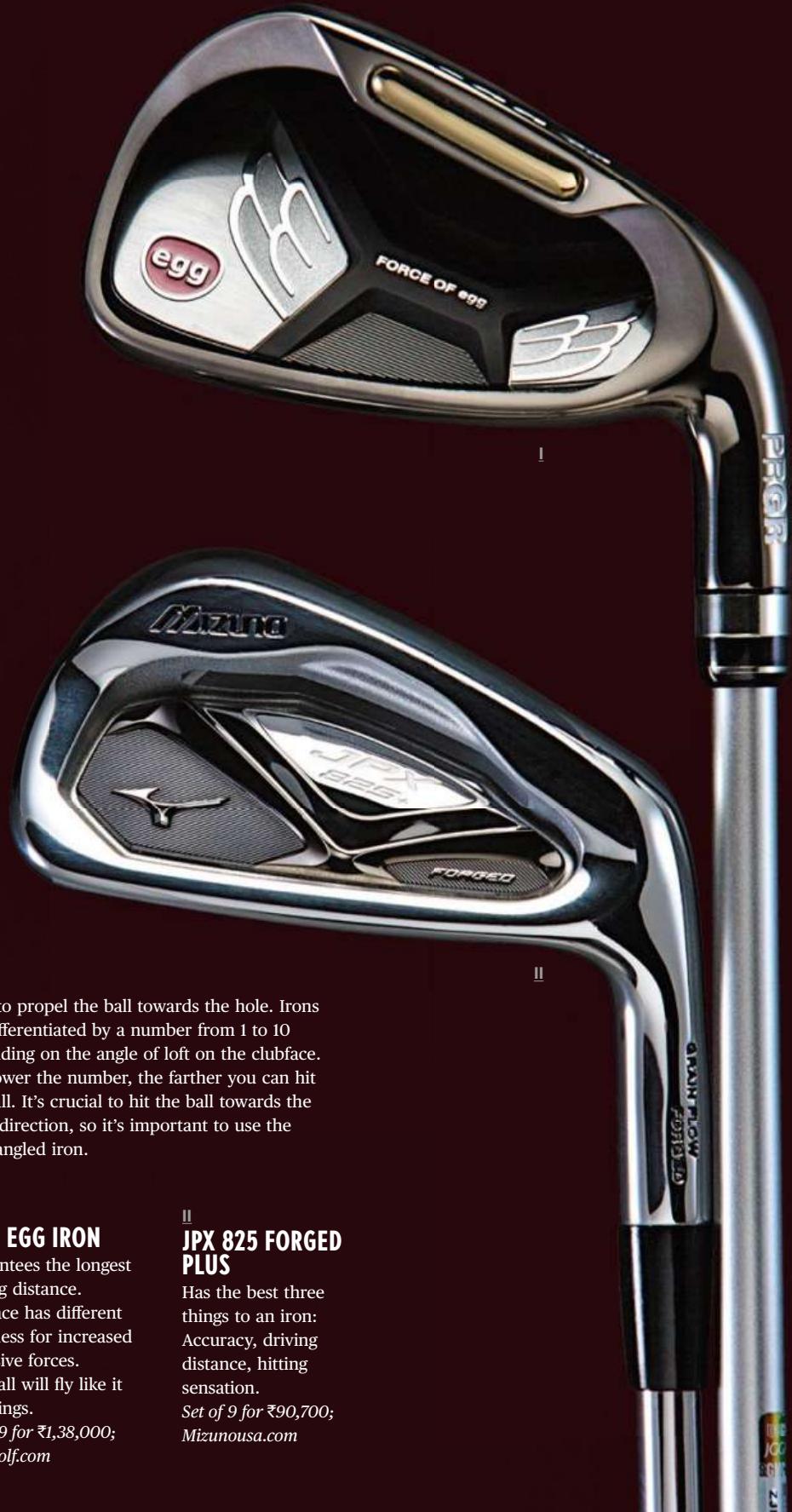
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# ARJUN KAPOOR

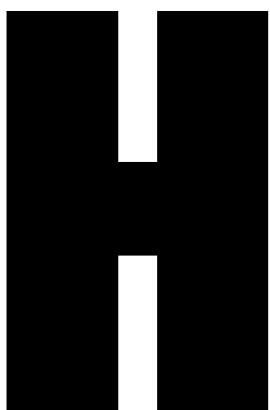
HE'S A STAR ON THE RISE, A MAN AT THE PEAK OF HIS PERFORMANCE POWERS, A GUY WITH A STYLE OF HIS OWN AND NOW, THE FIRST MAN EVER (AND WE MEAN EVER) TO GRACE THE COVER OF MAXIM.

by SIMON CLAYS





*photographs by* **PRASAD NAIK**



**HE'S ARGUABLY THE BEST ACTOR OF HIS GENERATION—THREE** back-to-back blockbusters is powder to that particular keg. His bloodline is dripping with Bollywood blue blood, his cousin has been christened 'India's best-dressed woman' and his superstar uncle, 'Mr. India,' makes Omar Sharif look like a bungling illiterate when it comes to style and debonair. He's a social media vampire vacuuming Likes, emoticon thumbs, Pins and Pokes like some plague of virtual popularity—the guy only has to Instagram himself munching pasta and the Internet crackles and chatters like a giggling schoolgirl. To be fair, a large proportion of his near three million fans do fall into that particular bubbling cauldron of raging hormones but that's what comes from being a fully paid up member of an exclusive club of young actors with the world at their very savvy, sartorially styled feet. So, when *Maxim* decided to gender-bend our cover for the first



THIS PAGE

Arjun wears: Trench by Zara; shirt and trousers by Arrow; tie by Bro Code

Models wear: Swimsuits by Shivan & Narresh; jewellery by Aquamarine

OPPOSITE PAGE

Arjun wears: Trench by Corneliani; T-shirt by Calvin Klein

PREVIOUS SPREAD

Arjun wears: Knitted cardigan by Zara

Model wears: Swimsuit by Shivan & Narresh; jewellery by Aquamarine

time in ten years of publishing and have a guy steal the Style Issue's limelight, there really was only one real choice...Mr. Arjun Kapoor. As you can see, it wouldn't be *Maxim* if we didn't coat the shoot in a light dusting of sugary sweet supermodel in the mix. We know Mr. Kapoor approved, so sit back and soak up history in the making.

#### **How did you like the shoot?**

Photoshoots can sometimes get a little generic, but in this case what appealed was the fact that *Maxim* wasn't previously the kind of magazine you'd associate with a man on the cover. The idea in itself was unique and out of the box, so for me it was exciting. It felt good doing it. I was a little nervous actually...

#### **We can't imagine you being nervous!**

It's because you don't want to come across as arrogant or pompous about the shoot—it all has to blend correctly to feel natural, especially when it's something totally new.

#### **How would you describe your style?**

For me style is comfort. If I go out for dinner I'll be in jeans and a tee. Mumbai's so bloody hot you can't really experiment too much! If it's something a little more formal, then I love suits. You know, I was once described very nicely by someone, which I think sums me up very nicely, as James Bond or a vagabond! So for me I'm either in flip-flops, sneakers and jeans or suits.

#### **Any style of suits in particular?**

All kinds, double-breasted, one-button...but I'm not a fan of the three-piece as I'm very broad and a waistcoat is just too much.

#### **And accessories? Are you a cufflinks and pocket square kind of guy?**

I think with a suit a pocket square is sometimes better than getting too uptight with a tie. I'm young enough to get away with not wearing a tie. Sometimes I think a tie just makes things too perfect and it's nice to have

that edge. But it's watches that I really like. I love chunky dials. I've quite a few Swiss pieces, but the one that I really want is a Jaeger-LeCoultre, but I've not even looked at one yet as I don't want to get excited.

#### **Who's more stylish, you or Ranveer Singh?**

Well, beauty lies in the eye of the beholder (*smirks*). No. If you like to be quirky, in your face, with a certain attitude about your clothes and energy, then I guess Ranveer has those aesthetics. I'm a bit understated, simple and I'm more about the subtlety of what I wear. So for people who like subtle, I'm the go-to guy and if you like loud then he's your man. I think we both have our personalities emerging through the way we dress.

#### **How did you meet, there are many different stories? Was it on-set?**

No, no—we knew each other way before. Before we even became actors since Ranveer is related to Sonam (Kapoor), so we knew each other and there was an automatic comfort we had with one another and then the same casting director cast him and me. But the friendship really developed during shooting together.

#### **Who are your style icons?**

David Beckham because he carries himself so very well and he doesn't try very hard. It's not about the brand or wearing the "in" thing. In fact, whatever the guy wears becomes the "in" thing.

#### **Tattoos or no tattoos?**

I have a tattoo, but I think the profession doesn't allow for too many because of the range of characters you have to play.

#### **Who else?**

Saif Ali Khan is someone I think is very iconic in the way he's evolved fashion-wise. He makes everything look good—he's one guy who can wear a bandana with a *bandhgala* and make it look cool.





Arjun wears: Jumper  
and jacket by Zara;  
trousers by FCUK

Model wears: Lace  
crop top by Deme by  
Gabriella; bottoms by  
Papa Don't Preach  
and jewellery by  
Curio Cottage



OPPOSITE PAGE  
Arjun wears: Jacket by Herringbone & Sui;  
T-shirt by FCUK; trousers by Arrow; pocket square by Akshata Bhojania; lapel pin by SS Homme  
Models wear: Swimsuits by Shivan and Narresh;  
jewellery by Aquamarine



**We think your uncle, Anil, is an icon...**

Of course, that almost goes without saying. I think he's very up to date with his style. He can wear high tops with jeans and then slip into a suit and carry both perfectly. Then there are the Hollywood guys like Brad Pitt and Ryan Gosling who can just about wear anything because they look so good!

**You watch a lot of Hollywood?**

I love cinema in general. All across the world I try to keep track of what's exciting and new. I'd choose watching a movie over a night of partying any day!

**What do you do with your spare time, when you get any?**

It's movies and TV. I've watched four movies and a new show called *Narcos* on Netflix all in the last week and that's while I'm still shooting. I go home, work out and watch a film.

**We heard you work out a lot, so what's your daily routine?**

I've a trainer who takes me through my routine and it's continually changing—I did an hour before coming to the shoot, but I can only do legs at the moment as I've injured my hand.

**We noticed, what happened?**

I was on the set when my hand got stuck in a door, so I've got stitches on my finger.

**Ouch! So, aside from the smashed up fingers, how's the new movie, *Ki and Ka*, going?**

It's going really well, we're off to Delhi, then off to Abu Dhabi and back to Mumbai to get it wrapped up.

**You're kind of known for being this quirky guy—are you a jokes guy or a one-liner type?**

I've been told that I'm the most sarcastic person in the world. Most of what I say drips

with sarcasm, but it's something that people seldom see. I'll tell you what happened and a very interesting thing I learned. When you become an actor, you become a commodity and when you step out into the media sometimes the content of what you might say, say, sarcastically, might get taken out of context. So what happens is I tend to curtail aspects of my personality and keep it for people who know me.

**Are you spontaneous? Is it possible to live that way in the public eye?**

Yeah, yeah. Doing this shoot was just that. I could have easily railroaded it and said I'll do it next month, next year, let me see, but we shot it and it's done. The only time I'm not spontaneous is when it comes to picking my films.

**Who makes you laugh?**

I would say my best friend, Kunal [Rawal], because of the kind of nonsense he gets up to. He's just a peculiar character. And of course, Ranveer has this idiot ability to make me laugh because of what a buffoon he is. But, believe me, it's difficult to get a laugh out of me—I can normally predict a joke from a mile off!

**What pisses you off?**

Bullshit pisses me off. I'm pretty straightforward but I hate it when people are sweet to your face, then talk shit behind your back!

**2016's just around the bend, what's next for Arjun Kapoor?**

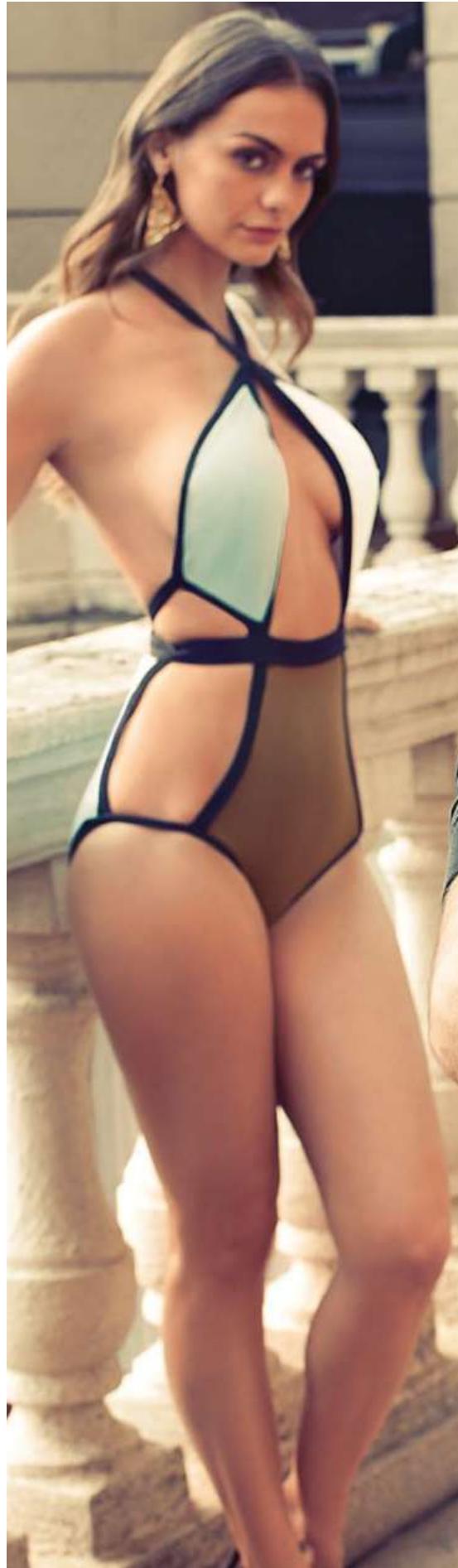
As of right now I'd like to pick up another good script with the right director and the right material.

**And maybe another *Maxim* shoot?**

Maybe! ■

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For the full interview, outtakes, a making of video and loads more bonus content log on to [www.maximindia.in](http://www.maximindia.in), [facebook.com/maximonline.india](https://facebook.com/maximonline.india), [twitter.com/MaximIndia](https://twitter.com/MaximIndia)





“I’VE BEEN TOLD THAT I’M THE MOST SARCASTIC PERSON IN THE WORLD. MOST OF WHAT I SAY DRIPS WITH SARCASM, BUT IT’S SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE SELDOM SEE.”

Arjun wears: Zipper jacket by Zara; trousers by Arrow; sunglasses by Kenzo

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# GAME OVER



WITH HIS INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER, *THE GAME*,  
**NEIL STRAUSS** BROUGHT THE MYSTERIOUS ART OF  
NO-FAIL SEDUCTION TO THE MASSES—AND BECAME THE  
MOVEMENT'S TOP PRACTITIONER. THEN HE FELL IN  
LOVE. CAN THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS PICKUP ARTISTE  
SURVIVE A STINT IN SEX REHAB?

## I AM NOT THE HERO OF THIS TALE. I AM THE VILLAIN. WHEN I LOOK BACK ON MY TEENAGE YEARS, I SEE A MALNOURISHED NERD WEARING CHEAP BLACK-RIMMED PLASTIC GLASSES TOO BIG FOR MY LITTLE FACE YET TOO SMALL FOR MY GIGANTIC EARS. AND I SEE BROWN HAIR CHOPPED AWKWARDLY SHORT—AT MY REQUEST. I HATED MY CURLS. EVERYONE ELSE HAD STRAIGHT HAIR, AND I WANTED TO FIT IN.

My losing ways continued not just through high school—where my prom date left the dance with another guy—but through college and my twenties. I eventually got a job touring with rock bands as a music journalist, yet even with an all-access backstage pass dangling around my neck, the adventures happened to everyone else.

But one day, everything changed: I embedded myself in an underground community of pickup artistes, hoping to turn my losing streak around. Soon I found myself travelling around the world with them, meeting women in bars, clubs, cafés, and streets. I became obsessed with making up for all the fun and adventure I'd missed out on. *The Game*, the book I wrote about my education at the hands of these unlikely lotharios, became so infamous that it eclipsed everything I'd done before.

Then I found I couldn't turn it off. Even after I finally snapped out of it, found a girlfriend, and shut the door behind me, I still couldn't stop. *The Game* was like a disease. Quite possibly an addiction.

So it is with equal parts frustration, remorse, and irony that, five years later, I find myself standing in the parking lot of a Level 1 psychiatric hospital\*, preparing to check in and unlearn everything I've spent so much time and energy learning.

There are people in this hospital who will die without the intervention. They're going to drink or snort or inject themselves to death. Next to them I feel like an impostor. Because I am here for a very different reason: I cheated on my girlfriend.

I told you I was the villain.

### A HAIRY MAN IN GREEN NURSE SCRUBS

takes my luggage, stretches a pair of latex gloves over his hammy fists, and starts searching for contraband.

"We don't allow books here."

The only other place I've been where books are confiscated is North Korea. Taking away books is a tactic of dictators. Even in prison, inmates can have books.

But this is my punishment, I tell myself. I'm here to be retrained, to learn how to be a decent human being. I've hurt people. I deserve to be in this hospital, this prison, this asylum, this convalescent home for weak men and women who can't say no.

After he also confiscates my razor and nail clippers, a green-smocked nurse—rail-thin and sinewy, with sun-damaged skin—leads me to a private room and wraps a blood pressure cuff around my arm.

"We need to take your vitals four times a day for the next three days," she says. Her eyes are dull, the words mechanical.

"Why is that?"

"We get people withdrawing and we want to make sure they're going to be OK," she explains. She lets me know my blood pressure is high.

Of course it's high, I want to say. You're taking away all my shit and treating me like I'm about to die from lack of sex. But I stay quiet. And I submit. Like a good cheater.

She gives me a pager I'm told to wear at all times. Then she thrusts one form after another in front of me. Patients' rights, liability, a pledge not to commit suicide—and the rules. More damn rules. One paragraph forbids me from having sex with any patient, nurse, or staff member. The next says that patients may not wear bikinis, tank tops, or shorts—and must wear bras at all times.

"So I have to put on a bra?" I joke.

"It's kind of silly," the nurse concedes, "but we have sex addicts in here." The words leave her mouth with scorn and fear, as if these sex addicts are not normal patients but creepy predators to beware of.

She moves on to the next form. "What are you here for?"

"Cheating."

It sounds lame. I'm in a mental hospital because I couldn't say no to new sex partners. So I add: "And to improve my relationship."

There comes a time in a man's life when he looks around and realises he's made a mess of everything. He's dug a hole for himself so deep that he doesn't even know which way is up anymore. And that hole for me has always

been relationships. When I'm single, I want to be in a relationship. When I'm in a relationship, I miss being single. And worst of all, when the relationship ends and my captor-lover finally moves on, I regret everything and don't know what I want anymore. You go through this cycle a few times, and one day you realise that, at this rate, you're going to grow old alone: No wife, no kids, no family. You'll die and it will be weeks before the smell gets strong enough that someone finds you.

The nurse looks up to face me. It is the first time she's made eye contact. I see something soften. I'm no longer an addict or a pervert. I've said the magic R-word: *relationship*.

Her lips part and moisten; her whole demeanour is different now. She actually wants to help me. "The first step," she says, "is finding someone to date who's healthy."

I think of Ingrid, whose heart I broke, whose friends want to kill me, who never did anything wrong but love me.

"I found that person," I say with a sigh. "That's what made me realise it's just me." She hands me a red badge with a long piece of white string looped through it. "You're in red two," she says. "You're required to wear your badge at all times."

"What does red two mean?"

"The tags are colour-coded. Red is for sex addicts. And the red two group is in therapy with"—she pauses and flashes a brief, uncomfortable smile—"Gail."

I can't tell whether it's fear or pity in her expression, but for some reason the name fills me with a crawling dread.

**T**HESE ARE THE WAYS IN WHICH MY sexual addiction has hurt my life," the man begins. He is skinny and blonde, with a sweet, boyish face, ruddy cheeks, and the beginnings of an oddly incongruous pot-belly. His red name tag identifies him as Calvin.

I'm in a group therapy room, and there are 10 chairs pushed against the side and back walls, each filled with a broken man. Against the front wall is a rolling chair, a desk, and a

file cabinet filled with the sins of countless sex addicts.

Sitting in that chair is a tall woman with a pear-shaped body and a tight bun of unwashed brown hair. She's wearing a loose-fitting flowered top over brown slacks and flat shoes. The edges of her lips are pulled slightly downward. She looks the group over, careful not to make eye contact with anyone. Whatever the opposite of sex is, she embodies it.

This is Gail.

"I lost my house and my brother," Calvin continues. "I booked a trip around the world with him and snuck away to see escorts in almost every city. I've spent a total of \$125,000 over the course of my life on escorts."

"Are you counting everything you've spent?"

"I think so." He braces himself as if he's about to be attacked.

"Did you include your Internet bill?"

"No."

"Do you use the Internet to find escorts?"

"Yes."

"Then include your Internet bill. And your phone bill, if you called any of these women whose bodies you masturbated with. Include the money you spent on taxis to see these women and the money you spent on condoms and the entire cost of any trip where you saw them."

"OK, then, maybe it's \$250,000?"

A quarter of a million dollars is still not enough for Gail. As she pushes him to add up every penny even peripherally involved in the pursuit of sex, I think about how I've made my living off my so-called sex addiction, writing books about players, porn stars, and decadent rockers. My sex addiction pays for my phone, rent, and health insurance. It pays for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; for movies, books, and the computer I'm writing on; for socks, underwear, and shoes. I couldn't even afford to be here getting treatment without it.

Meanwhile, Calvin is done. His head rolls down and he covers his eyes with his palms as the tears spill out. Victorious, Gail takes a verbal lap around the room, asking patients to report on what their sexual addiction has cost them, breaking down their defences, stripping them of the last vestige of ego and pride they've retained from any affair or adventure or transaction.

Except for Calvin, who's never had a serious girlfriend and is here because he got a Brazilian hooker pregnant, every other sinner was caught cheating. And so they come here, trying to work off the sins of the flesh and hoping a miracle can save the family that is both their greatest achievement and their greatest burden.

I'm here not just because I cheated: I'm here



GROOMING: MICHELLE HARVEY AT OPUS BEAUTY USING DIOR SKIN

as a preemptive strike against having a marriage like theirs. Either I'll learn to have a committed, intimate relationship with Ingrid or give up and say, "Fuck it, this is my nature," and avoid monogamous relationships altogether.

When we break for lunch, Gail stops me as I try to leave the room. "You need to sign some paperwork," she informs me, without making eye contact. She turns to her computer and calls up a document. The bold print on the screen freezes my heart:

#### CELIBACY/ABSTINENCE CONTRACT.

She reads it sternly:

*I will refrain from the following:*

*Masturbation*

*Implicit or explicit pornographic material*

*Flirtatious, seductive, romantic, or suggestive comments or behaviour*

*Seductive attire*

*Sexually overt or covert contact with another person or myself*

*Secretive sexual fantasising: I will report objectifying, fantasising, or obsessing to appropriate staff members*

*And cross-dressing.*

"This contract is effective for 12 weeks," she informs me.

"But I'm only supposed to be here for four weeks."

She fixes her eyes on mine: They are brown and glassy, with as much empathy as a snail shell.

"It takes three months for your brain to return to normal after all the damage caused by the high of sex!"

"So I can't even have sex when I leave?"

"Not if you want to recover."

I sign the contract. Like a good cheater.

**A**S I WALK THROUGH A DRAB hallway to the cafeteria, I feel a pain in my groin, a psychologically induced ache. I've sold my soul to Gail and turned my dick into an appendage, doomed to dangle desolately between my legs, waiting for an occasional piss.

I join Charles, a sad but dignified-looking sexaholic with Bill Clinton hair, in the food line. "Let me ask you," I say, giving him a nudge. "Do you think it's male nature that makes us want to sleep with other people, or is it really an addiction?"

"It's definitely an addiction," Charles says authoritatively. "And the day I finally admitted I was powerless over it was the happiest day of my life. After that, if I was attracted to a beautiful woman on the street, I knew it wasn't my fault. I just looked away and said, 'This is a disease and I'm powerless over it.'"

At a table near the caffeine-free coffeemaker—they don't allow sugar or caffeine here—I spot a woman with a red tag. She's the first female sex addict I've seen. So of course I sit next to her.

She's a tall, attractive, dark-haired businesswoman in her late thirties. Her name, according to her tag, is Naomi.

Charles refuses to sit with us. "We signed a contract," he admonishes me. "We're not supposed to talk to female patients."

"Says who? That's not even in the contract."

"You're threatening my sobriety," he warns.

Naomi laughs as Charles walks off. As we eat, I ask Naomi about her story. She says she cheated on her husband 17 times. "I remember the first time I slept with someone else. I got my first client at work and my boss took me out to congratulate me. We started drinking, and he leaned over and made out with me. That acceptance was a big high. My head was spinning. I've cheated since then, looking for that same high, and it's always the same situation: wanting acceptance from powerful men."

The thought occurs to me before I can stop it: This is a great place to meet women. Naomi

is divulging the exact strategy to seduce her.

Shit, now I definitely broke the contract. Maybe Charles was right. I need to follow the rules here without questioning them.

As I walk along the path to the dorms after the meal, another patient in my group spots me and motions me over surreptitiously.

"Your last name is Strauss, right?" he asks when I join him on the lawn. He's thin and laid-back, with thick dark hair and black designer sunglasses. His name tag reads TROY. He's a certified sex addiction therapist who cheated on his wife with an import model he found on a website for women seeking sugar daddies. "I read your book."

"Do me a favour: Don't tell anyone who I am," I plead. "It's just too ironic: The guy who wrote the book on picking up women is being treated for sex addiction."

"So why are you here, man? I thought you'd be out living the life."

"I was. But at some point I want to be in a healthy relationship and be a dad, so I have to learn how to shut it off."

"I'll tell you something," Troy whispers conspiratorially. "As a sex therapist, I've heard every story out there. And after 15 years in this job, I don't know if I believe in monogamy."

I clap him on the back and breathe a sigh of relief. I've found either an ally in truth here or a partner in crime.

**I**'VE BEEN SITTING IN THIS ROOM WITH Gail for three straight days now and I've barely spoken a word or learned a thing. Today, Calvin is in trouble for fantasising about a female in-patient.

"Go ahead, Calvin," Gail says icily, "tell us all how you pornified Carrie."

"I don't know. I just noticed that she had riding boots on, and she was talking about how she liked horses, and I do, too. So I was fantasising about riding away on a horse with her and getting married."

I always thought that sex addicts fantasised about deviance, not, like, finding a woman who shares their interests and getting happily married.

When I tune back in to the room, Charles and Troy are bickering about pronouns. Gail asks them to sit in chairs opposite each other and talk using the "communication boundary." She holds up a big poster board reading:

When I saw/heard \_\_\_\_.  
The story I told myself about that was \_\_\_\_.  
And I feel \_\_\_\_.  
So I would like to request that \_\_\_\_.

Charles tries it: "When I heard you say that 'we're not monogamous by design,' the story I told myself about that was that it's not true for me. I'm here to get better. And I feel *angry*. So I would like to request that in the future, you use *I* to refer to yourself instead of *we*."

Language is a big deal here. The day before, Troy was discussing a girl he had an affair with, and Gail spent 15 minutes lecturing him on the use of the G-word. "As a therapist, when I hear the word *girl*, I have to automatically assume that you're talking about a minor. And I'm obliged to report that."

"I'm a sex addiction therapist also," Troy replied. "I've been practising for 15 years. And I have never heard that interpretation of the word *girl* before in my life."

Gail raised her head, like a cobra ready to strike: "If you use that word again, I *will* report you. And you won't make it to your 16th year as a CSAT."

Troy shut up.

Now I look around the room in frustration: This has been a complete waste of time so far. No one's problems are being dealt with. They're going to leave rehab the same as they walked in, just with more guilt and an awkward way of communicating. I can't take it anymore.

My voice cracks: "How is this helpful to us?" "The way that we're communicating in here

seek sex outside the relationship."

In the hallway after the session, Troy and my roommate, Adam—a God-fearing, patriotic American man clipped right out of a 1950s aftershave ad—are waiting for me. "Hey, man, I like the way you stood up to Gail," Troy says under his breath. "We all have those questions, you know, and it's cool you're asking them."

"Thanks."

"Don't give in to her," he encourages me. "She's going to try to break you. But you have to stand up for us."

"Why don't you guys just speak up for yourselves?"

"You know, we just want to make it through to the end of the programme." They exchange glances. "Gail, she doesn't forget. And when our wives come for family week, we don't want her making things any more difficult for us, if you know what I mean."

I've heard other guys here mention family week like it's the equivalent of an IRS audit, so I ask them about it. During the third week here, they explain, parents and wives visit so your therapist can help heal your entire family system. For sex addicts, the process includes something called *disclosure*, which requires coming clean with a partner about past affairs and transgressions. Ideally, once these wounds heal, the couple can build a new relationship from a place of truth and

happened and who was responsible."

I flash Charles a dirty look and feel Gail's glare heating my face.

"As a consequence of your behaviour," Gail continues, "I'm going to have to take more extreme measures with all of you."

She holds up several slips of paper bearing the words MALES ONLY. "I'm requiring all of you to wear this, displayed prominently at all times. From this moment, you are not allowed to even say hi to a woman."

"What about you?" Charles asks. "You're a woman. Are we allowed to talk to you?"

And that's the last straw for me. I'm not like Charles. I can't just blindly obey. The method needs to make sense to me. So far, this programme is as effective at teaching monogamy as prisons are at teaching morality.

"Is the underlying principle of all this the idea that if we have true intimacy in our relationship, we won't seek outside sex?" I ask Gail, repeating her words from earlier.

"Yes," she says, with satisfaction that I finally appear to be getting it.

"I have this thing that's been going through my head all day. Is it all right if I ask it?"

"Please." The word drips with disdain.

"Can I use the blackboard?" I don't know another way to explain it.

Her back stiffens. She senses something unpredictable may happen. She shoots me a stern look, trying to melt my resolve.

I write her words on the board: IF TRUE INTIMACY, THEN NO OUTSIDE SEX.

"That's your theory," I say. "Boil it down to the basic idea, and what you get is this..."

IF TRUE X, THEN NO OUTSIDE Y.

"And the problem is, this equation just isn't true." In school, I never thought I'd actually have to use algebra in real life. I was wrong. "Let's say that your wife is the best cook in the world. Then according to what you're saying, you'll never want to eat anywhere else. But that's just not true. Sometimes you want to go to a restaurant."

Gail is quiet, rattling me with her lack of reaction. The guys are watching intently. Calvin is on the edge of his seat. Troy has a big smile on his face. Charles' brow is deeply furrowed. "So let's go back to your original premise: If true intimacy, then no outside intimacy." But you seek intimacy with your family and your friends, right?"

The guys are staring openmouthed now, big dopey grins on their faces—except for Charles, who's looking at Gail imploringly. I must be interfering with his recovery again.

"People are under the logical fallacy that when their partner wants sex outside the relationship, it's harmful to their intimacy together," I conclude. "Perhaps instead of retraining us to accept a relationship on our

## IF THE GUYS COULD CARRY ME ON THEIR SHOULDERS, THEY WOULD. I'M THEIR WHITE KNIGHT, THEIR SACRIFICIAL LAMB, THEIR DICK IN SHINING LATEX.

is how people should be communicating with their spouses," Gail responds coolly.

"And that's going to stop them from sleeping with other women?"

It's a serious question, but everyone laughs. Gail's face trembles for a moment, as if she's nervous that she's about to lose control of the room. Then she regains her composure and answers, "You learn to love yourselves by learning to be relational, in the moment, with each other."

"And that's going to stop us from cheating?"

"What I'm saying is that if you have true intimacy with your partner, you won't need to

intimacy. With a therapist who's not tactful, though, or one who has an agenda, disclosure can quickly turn into disaster—and the next time the addict sees his wife will be in court.

**O**NE OF THE OTHER THERAPISTS tells me that the male sex addicts have been talking to a female sex addict," Gail says as our afternoon session with her begins. "I told her that it couldn't have been *my* guys. But then"—she raises her eyebrows in feigned shock—"I was told by a member of this group yesterday exactly what

partners' terms, we could just as easily retrain them to accept the relationship on our terms."

The room is completely silent. It's like a chess match. Everyone's wondering if it's checkmate.

"I think you're intellectualising to be able to control the overall addiction," Gail says as I return to my seat.

That's all she's got? To tell me to stop using my brain? "That's what dictators like Pol Pot and Hitler and Stalin say. They burn books and kill intellectuals so no one can question them."

I don't mean to sound so confrontational. "So help me," I add, beseechingly. "I want to be wrong. I want to recover. But I need to reconcile this contradiction. What you're teaching us needs to actually make sense."

"This is your addict fighting against recovery and not letting go," she says sharply. She looks at the clock and rises. "You're all late for dinner."

She walks to the desk and starts gathering papers, holding her head high as if she's prevailed. Yet everyone, possibly even Charles, is aware that she not only failed to defend her thesis but quite possibly couldn't.

**A**T DINNER WE ALL SIT TOGETHER, the demons of the round table. We are bonded now in brotherhood, in celibacy, in shame, in sickness, in punishment, in victory, and by the fact that we're all wearing signs that read MALES ONLY around our necks. If the guys could carry me on their shoulders, they would. I am their white knight, their sacrificial lamb, their dick in shining latex.

"You know, I've been thinking about how Gail made me add up all the money I spent," Calvin says. "Most was worth it. I was with a porn star from Serbia once. She was a 10. Cost \$1,000—and she worked me over. It was the best experience of my life. I wouldn't trade it for anything." He pauses and reflects. "I've probably wasted more money on bad food."

Troy flashes a big grin. "We're guys. We like sex. Everywhere you turn, you're shown pictures of gorgeous women who look like they want to cater to your every desire. And then what? If you think about sleeping with them, suddenly you're sick and unhealthy?"

Suddenly Charles slaps the table, as if trying to snap us out of a trance. "This is your disease talking right now, guys. Don't trust your thoughts. Your addiction will say anything so it can keep controlling you."

"I'll tell you honestly," Adam says. "I like sex that's exciting and sometimes a little rough. But my wife, she just lies there, like once every three months, and basically lets me

have sex with her."

A vision forms in my head. I grab a pen and sketch it for the guys:

#### THE MALE DILEMMA

1. *Sex is great.*
2. *Relationships are great.*
3. *Relationships grow over time.*
4. *The sex gets old over time.*
5. *So does she.*
6. *Thus the problem.*

It's a horrible thing to write or even think. No one could ever say this in regular society. They'd be destroyed for it. But it seems to be the reason most of these middle-aged guys are here.

Charles jumps out of his seat and announces, "This is not good for my recovery." He walks away, looking for another table without women.

The counsellor supervising a table for patients with eating disorders turns and scowls, so we whisper. We're rehab insurgents plotting a revolution.

"Wanting variety is natural," Troy says quietly as the guys lean in. "Look at porn: Guys don't watch the same girl every time."

"You know who the best girlfriend would be?" Calvin interjects, his eyes lit up. "That mutant from X-Men who can turn into anyone she wants. I'd never get bored with her! You could have sex with Megan Fox one night and Hillary Clinton the next."

"Hillary Clinton?!" Troy asks for all of us.

"Why not?" Calvin says. "Don't tell me you've never thought about it."

None of us has.

#### SHE IS TOO PURE FOR THIS PLACE.

She stands in the nurses' area, wearing a fitted plaid button-down shirt that's open to reveal a triangle of flawless skin, and black jeans that stop just above her high heels. No one wears high heels in here. It's not healthy for the fragile libidos.

She stiffens as she sees me and everything comes up at once in her face—the love, the hate, the desire, the fear, the hope, the hurt—and pushes through the scab covering it all.

The words *Oh, my God* escape from her mouth. Then the tears roll. When we hug, it's like she's dissolving into me. A sense of unworthiness sweeps over me. Here I am, lusting after female sex addicts and arguing against monogamy, while she's come all this way with so much hope that I've changed. "What are you thinking about?" Ingrid asks.

"I'm just happy you're here."

We walk to the cafeteria to eat. "Miss, you're

going to have to button your shirt higher," the dining-hall counsellor and anorexic-feeder barks when he sees her, as if the sex addicts are going to break into spontaneous public masturbation when they see that extra inch of cleavage.

We grab plates of flavourless chicken parts over soapy rice and walk to the sex addict table. Troy claps me on the back and says, idiotically, "You didn't tell us how hot she was." Maybe that counsellor was right after all.

Ingrid asks each guy in the group about his story. She then tells them her family's story: Her grandfather cheated on her grandmother, her father cheated on her mother, and now she ends up with a cheater herself.

"Maybe that's the female dilemma," Troy interrupts. "A woman marries someone who's giving her love and romance, but over time she gets taken for granted or turned into a domestic robot or becomes a baby factory or gets cheated on. Then her husband has the nerve to complain that she's not sexual or attractive when he's drained all the life out of her."

After dinner, the anorexic-feeder curtly tells Ingrid that visiting hours are over. As we head back to reception, a patient who's here for post-traumatic stress disorder falls into step with us. As we talk, he slowly becomes aware of Ingrid's presence and asks if she's my girlfriend.

I turn toward Ingrid and our eyes search each other's for an answer. "Yes," she tells him. "I am."

Waves of relief flow through me. I'm done fantasising about women here and non-monogamous decadence outside. I've been given a second chance to not perpetuate the multigenerational pattern of cheating men and the women who love them. The sins of the parents are the destinies of their children—unless the children wake up and do something about it.

"Thank you for believing in me," I tell her.

After she leaves, I sit on a bench and tears come to my eyes. Ingrid seems to love me unconditionally, but I fear that I love her conditionally. I look at her sometimes and wonder if I'll still be able to make love to her when she's fat and wrinkly. I pick apart her features, looking for imperfections. Of course, I have plenty of my own: I'm short, bald, bony, and big-nosed, with huge greasy pores. I'm lucky to be with her again. Still, I wonder: Am I even capable of love? I can't tell whether my tears are for the beauty of her love or the tragedy of my own failure to feel worthy of it. M

*THE TRUTH* by Neil Strauss will be published by Canongate on October 13, 2015.



# CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

## with Stephanie Cayo

This stunning and talented Peruvian actress will ensure you're addicted to streaming TV. Starring in *Club de Cuervos*, the first original Mexican series for Netflix, the enchanting Cayo ensures we won't need subtitles. So, are you ready to meet your new favourite telly actress?

by GABRIEL GUAJARDO



Bodysuit by  
Shady Zein  
Eldine; earrings  
by Amarillo

#### I'M SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM OF

Stephanie's house while part of the production team gets everything ready for hair and make-up. Not even five minutes go by when she walks through the main door and greets us all: "Hello, how are you? Have they offered you something to drink?" From the moment you set foot in her house, her family makes you feel welcome; even though whatever beverage we want is the least important thing, our main concern being getting her ready for her shoot with *Maxim*. We ask her to walk down a hallway to the kitchen, the perfect space to get her ready, thanks to the spectacular way the Californian sun hits her windows.

I haven't mentioned this yet, but we are in the Hollywood Hills, in Los Angeles, California, a place where she's been living for the past year and a half. Our journey all the way here is for a very important reason: Stephanie has the leading role in the first Spanish-speaking series from Netflix, called *Club de Cuervos*.

With over 65 million subscribers around the world, television's streaming giant, Netflix, is revolutionising the way we watch movies and series: you can enjoy your favourite programmes at the time and place of your choice and convenience without adverts.

"I'm a fan, I love to be able to watch what I like whenever I want to." Even watching the same scenes over and over again. "As an actress, for example, I like to watch a scene many times because I like to appreciate the way it was performed and executed," the talented actress shared with us via Skype a few days after our encounter.

#### A NEW PROJECT

*Club de Cuervos* is about two siblings, Chava (Luis Gerardo Méndez) and Isabel (Mariana Treviño), and their battle over the presidency of a football club, Los Cuervos de Nuevo Toledo, a sport institution they inherited after the passing of their father, Don Salvador.

Netflix, started off as a video on demand platform which only offered content from

other companies, but from 2012 it started generating its own productions... and it has had one success after another with *House Of Cards*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Bloodline*, *Daredevil*, *Sense8* and others that have started to decorate their living room shelves with awards. "I love to be part of Netflix's first project in the Spanish language. It's really good to have a series like this in our market. It's an important platform; in fact it's the future. I like to support and participate in different and original projects," she points out as we carry on our chat.

The series promises to be the next big hit in Spanish for the red giant. Created by Gaz Alazraki and written by Mike Lam, *Club de Cuervos* offers clever, risqué humour just like Alazraki managed to achieve in *Nosotros Los Nobles* (2013), keeping the same line which could become his signature style as a writer: The family circle, in a dark context, where betrayal, resentment and power struggles are the order of the day.

"How did you become a part of the cast of *Club de Cuervos*?" I ask Stephanie. "Well, they contacted me through my manager. After that I did an audition for Gary Alazraki, when he told me about the project, the idea and how everything had happened. He also asked me for my opinion and, well, I loved to hear about the people involved in the project (Luis Gerardo Méndez, Mariana Treviño, Daniel Giménez Cacho, amongst others). Working with Gary has been a very pleasant surprise, really."

What is her role in this sports series? The Peruvian plays the role of María Luz Solari, a woman who was in a relationship with Don Salvador, the owner of the football club. "We can say she was after his money." Her character is one of the most intriguing ones in the series and that key factor is what led her to accept the role: "I'm fascinated by María Luz. In the first season you won't see much about her past. We start knowing her little by little, so there is a lot of mystery around her. And that's what I like the most; even I get to know her slowly. It has been a discovery process."

#### RISING STAR

After an hour of make-up, hair, styling and a brief lunch, we leave her home and get on a van on our way to El Matador Beach. Located to the north of Malibu, this small beach offers the perfect scenery. You need to climb down from the cliffs to reach the sandy beach that features some amazing rock formations.

Whilst we leave the Hollywood Hills en route to the beach, between narrow roads, tall trees and charming cosy houses, we enjoy the typical Los Angeles view and admire the iconic Hollywood sign on Mount Lee.

Stephanie's career has taken her many places, she has spent entire seasons in New York, Colombia and Mexico, so why Los Angeles now? "I like it very much. Everything here is related to cinema and television. Also, the place where I live is very organic, you know? You have the opportunity to live a healthy lifestyle. I practise yoga, ride a bike, walk up the hill. The atmosphere is creative and that is very motivating."

If you haven't heard much about her, Stephanie has one of the most brilliant careers in Latin America, which started before she can even remember: "My career started when I was three years old doing commercials. It was a butter advert." What did she have to do? "You know, spread butter on a slice of toast, after that I would eat it and say it was yummy."

And talking about food, she pointed out what a Peruvian misses in this Californian city. "Family, friends, sunsets. And food, ceviche, parmesan conchitas, grilled octopus. Ay, dios mío! Saltado-style chicken...many things", she confesses while my appetite starts growing.

El Matador Beach is truly spectacular, but when you step in the water, the ice-cold temperature makes you immediately regret your decision. It was a particularly cold day but Stephanie posed without a single complaint. You can tell she's a true professional. Without a doubt, *Maxim*'s team was happy to work with the talented actress of Colombian hits like *El Secretario* (2011) and

"MY DAD ALWAYS USED TO WATCH FOOTBALL AND I USED TO KEEP HIM COMPANY. IN OUR COUNTRIES IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO HAVE A STRONG LINK WITH FOOTBALL. EVERYONE LOVES IT. IT'S HARD NOT TO IDENTIFY WITH IT, THIS SPORT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER."

Swimsuit by Mikoh;  
lotus arm cuff by  
Amarillo; ring by  
Wanderlust + Co



*La Hipocondriaca* (2012), titles that helped launch her career.

Her achievements extend beyond the movie sets. She has performed in theatre for musicals like *Chicago*, and she was named Pantene ambassador for three years alongside supermodel Gisele Bündchen: "It was so nice. I love the message behind their campaign, the support they offer women. The idea of empowering women," she points out.

Today, thanks to her persistence and professionalism, Stephanie has a very important project at regional level. *Club de Cuervos* gives everyone something to talk about, specially the male crowds due to its family drama and the intense passion for one of the most popular sports in the world: Football.

"My dad always used to watch football and I used to keep him company. In our countries it's impossible not to have a strong link with football. Everyone loves it. It's hard not to identify with it, this sport brings people together."

As we are about to finish the interview, I ask her which has been the most important project in her career to this day. Stephanie thinks about the answer: "They're all important. But, to be honest, I don't think that project has arrived yet. I feel it will be a movie. I'm not sure," concludes our *Maxim* girl who doesn't seem truly satisfied with anything.

Is she about to make her Californian dream come true? We really hope she does... she's earned it. M





"I HAVE NOT HAD PICTURES TAKEN LIKE THIS. SINCE I WAS LIKE 18 YEARS OLD, I HAVE LEARNT A LOT AND TODAY I FEEL LIKE A MORE CONFIDENT WOMAN. NOW I KNOW HOW I WANT TO HAVE MY PICTURE TAKEN AND I FEEL LIKE SENSUALITY IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY WOMAN."

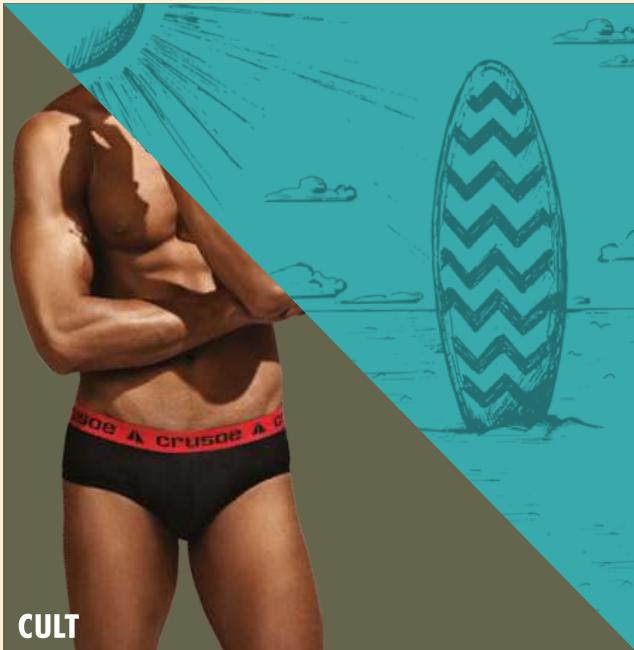


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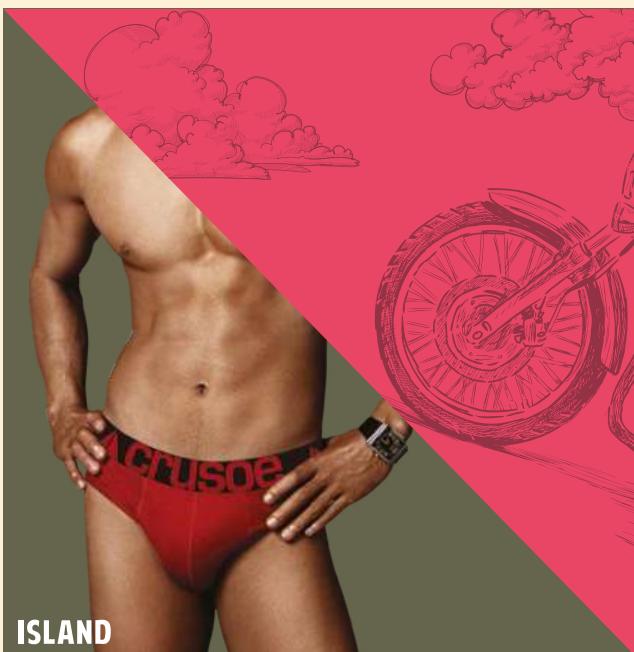
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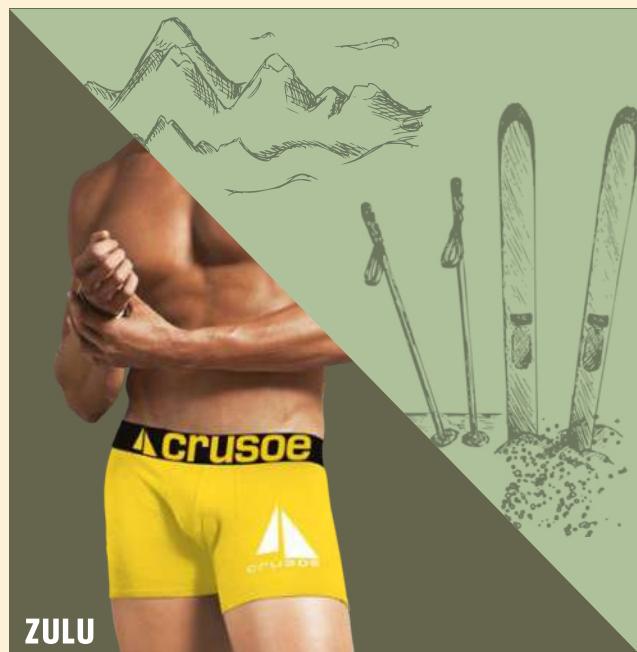
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**DOESN'T CONFORM**

**LOKESH VERMA**, Tattoo Artist

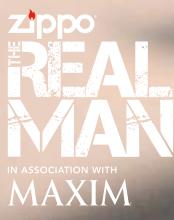
Verma always knew he wasn't going to fit in with the rest. As a pre-teen, when his friends wanted to play cricket, he wanted to sketch and create art with ink. Twenty years later and he's doing just that, and is extremely successful as the founder of Devil'z Tattooz.



**zippo**  
**THE REAL MAN**  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**MAXIM**

**IS TRUSTWORTHY**  
**VIKRANT SOOD**, Private Pilot

Sood has spent the last seven years flying VIPs, politicos, business tycoons and celebrities to and from different parts of the world. His flight timings are erratic and sometimes last-minute but it's something he's learned to enjoy. Besides getting to travel the world for a living, his favourite part of the job is knowing his passengers trust him and his skillset. "It's satisfying when a client tells me they had a great experience even though there might have been turbulence or other issues."



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

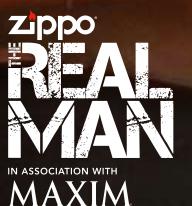
MAXIM

STAYS COOL

**GAURAV GILL**, Rally Racer

The charming rally racer is the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Champion (2013) and one of the best racers India has today. He was also nominated for the Arjuna Award this year. For a guy who whizzes across mountains and valleys at breakneck speeds, Gill has an in-built sense of cool that helps him zone out and concentrate on his drive.





### TAKES CHARGE

**JOY SINGH**, Owner, Raasta: The Caribbean Bar

Starting out as a young boy working in the family business, Singh quickly realised he wasn't someone who could take orders from anyone else. He decided to ditch the easy path, take charge and set up shop on his own. It took a few years of hard work, and finally he opened his dream bar. Raasta is currently one of the most popular and profitable destinations in the Capital.



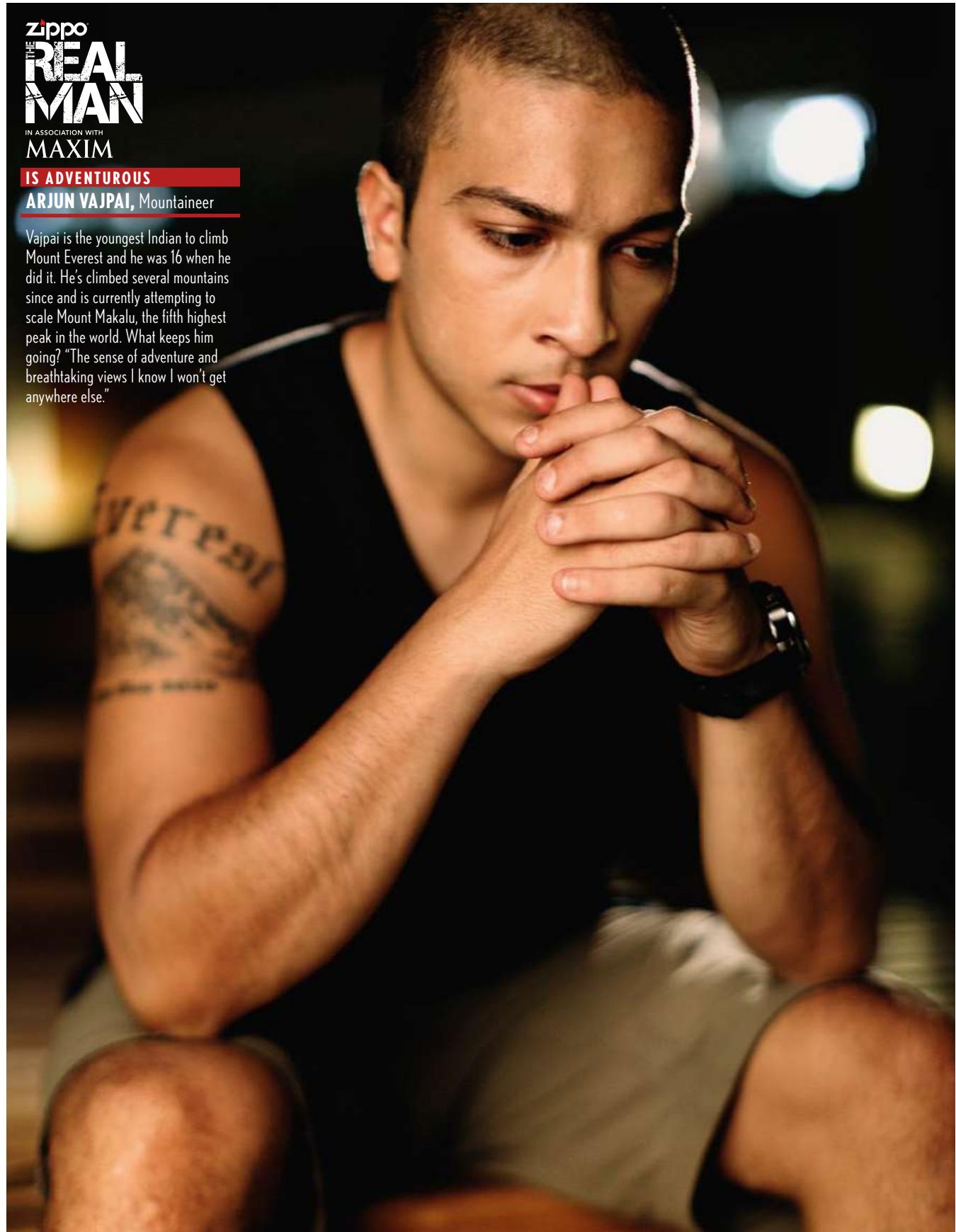
PURPLE HAT

**ZIPPO**  
**THE REAL MAN**  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**MAXIM**

**IS ADVENTUROUS**

**ARJUN VAJPAI**, Mountaineer

Vajpai is the youngest Indian to climb Mount Everest and he was 16 when he did it. He's climbed several mountains since and is currently attempting to scale Mount Makalu, the fifth highest peak in the world. What keeps him going? "The sense of adventure and breathtaking views I know I won't get anywhere else."



Location courtesy of DELHI ROCK, New Delhi; grooming (throughout): ALEN & MOHIT; photography assistants: GIREESH & UMESH

MAXIM

STYL

ESPE

CIAL

# DOUBLE TAKE

Statement outerwear is the talk of the season. Pick one (or all) of these fresh-off-the-runway styles for memorable fashion moments.

Military inspo meets  
sports luxe meets  
bomber vibes in this  
Theorem by Nitin  
Chawla cropped  
jacket. ₹18,999

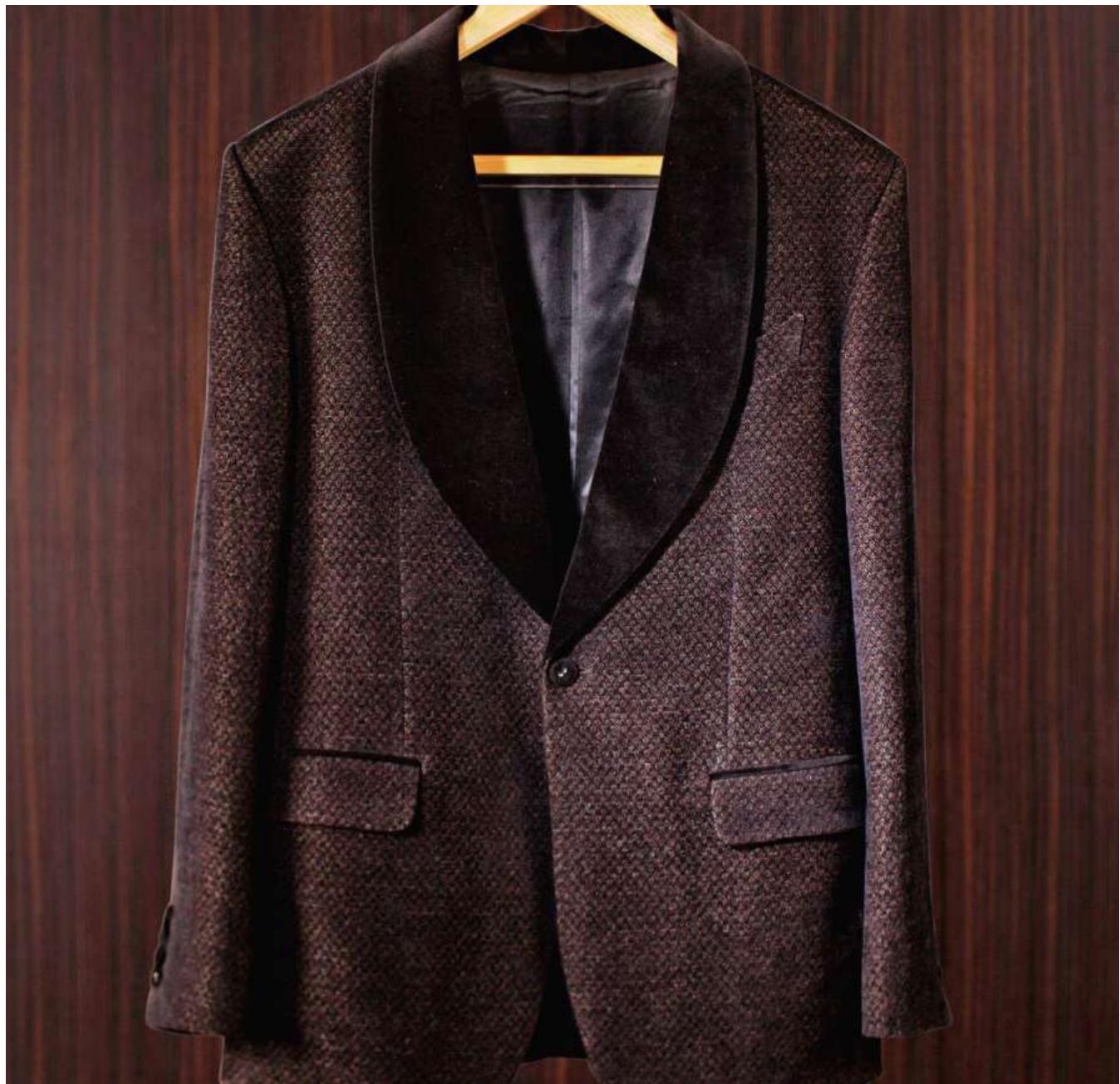


## STYLE SPECIAL

A casual tropical print gets a major upgrade in this Charchit Bafna coat courtesy of the print detailing and fresh colour palette. ₹7,800



The classic tuxedo desperately needed a face lift and that's exactly what Anuj Madaan has done with this dinner jacket. The velvet collar and wool bodice make a luxe combination. ₹24,500



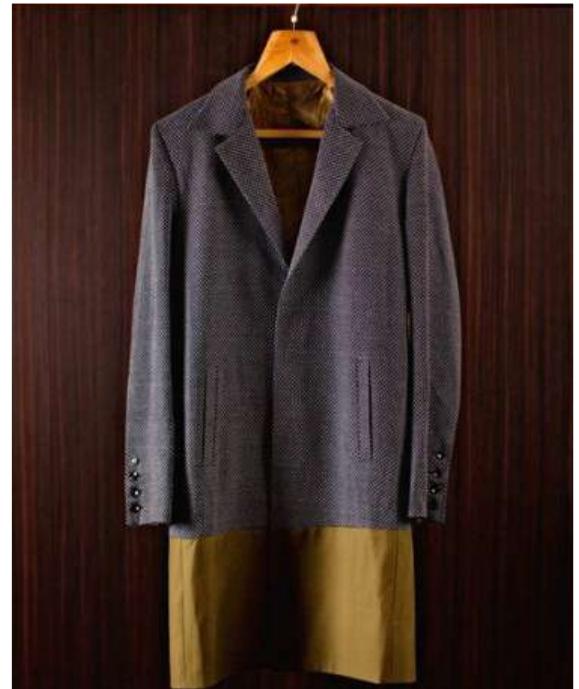
## STYLE SPECIAL

Aartivijay Gupta's bold prints could leave you second-guessing your options but, trust us, you'll pull it off with style—all it takes is a little dose of extra confidence. ₹15,000





The grandpa trench you dusted off last winter can go back into the deep recesses of your wardrobe. This 2015 hybrid by Sol by Piyush Dedhia is all you'll need. ₹18,000





Rajesh Pratap Singh takes us on a graphic trip through *The Matrix* with this raindrop ikat jacket (part of a suit). ₹32,500





# SHAPE MATTERS



Experience the passion that has fashioned the mix and match of shapes setting new trends in iconic Style. Acting as a beacon in the design studios of CERA ...

Now presenting the **Gayle Series**, a stunning range of ergonomically designed faucets. Indulge in curves and strokes tailored for the lavish living.

# CERA

*Faucets & Showers*

[www.cera-india.com/gayle](http://www.cera-india.com/gayle)

# EYE SPY

Take care of those under-eye bags and dark circles with these (almost) magical potions created especially for blokes.



1. Active Energizing Concentrate by Shiseido Men  
₹3,500

2. Anti Fatigue Eye Serum by Clarins Men  
₹2,800

3. Anti-Age Eye Cream by Clinique For Men  
₹2,800

4. Multi-Action Revitalizing Cream by Kaya Men  
₹790

# POST-SHOWER WORKOUT

With the changing weather, your after shave balm and moisturiser need to change too. Check out these moisture- and nutrient-packed options.

1. Super Moisture Balm by Clarins Men ₹2,650
2. Vita-Age Man Balsamo Dopo Barba by Bottega di Lungavita ₹990
3. Cool After Shave Balm by Nivea Men ₹235
4. Man Power After Shave Moisturiser by Shahnaz Husain ₹460



# TIME MACHINES

Platinum, silver or gold...These selections are the spankin' new watches starring as coveted accessories for the current season.





1. Tissot Des Tourelles  
Powermatic 80 ₹51,900

2. Omega Seamaster 300  
Spectre Limited Edition  
₹419,000

3. Versace Dylas Automatic  
Limited Edition (p.o.r.)

4. Hublot Classic Fusion  
Skeleton Haute Joaillerie (p.o.r.)

5. Salvatore Ferragamo 1898  
₹86,700

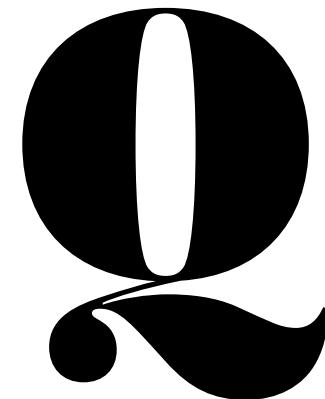
6. Breitling-The Bentley  
B06 ₹7,21,600



## NARENDRA KUMAR

MAXIM TALKS STYLE WITH THE MULTITASKING DESIGN MAVEN WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF ONLINE PORTAL AMAZON FASHION (INDIA) AND A GAMECHANGER FOR MENSWEAR IN THE COUNTRY.

by MEHER BAJWA



**Right now, how important is fashion for Indian men on a scale of 1 to 10?**

Fashion over the last decade has become an integral part of our lifestyle and we have seen a great explosion in the last two years. It has moved from being restricted to just occasion wear to an everyday element attached with you. I am happy with the progression, and would say that it's somewhere between 5 and 6 on 10, but I would like it to be a perfect 10.

**How is men's fashion evolving in India... say, from what it was 10 years ago?**

It is heading towards being smarter, edgier and quite hippy. Again, with the boundless reach that e-commerce provides, international fashion is spreading its wings in the Indian industry as well, making international brands accessible with just a few clicks. Power dressing, occasion dressing, workwear, casual dressing—all have witnessed tremendous attention from men.

**More designers are getting into the menswear space than ever...**

India is finally realising that fashion is beyond a specified gender. With increasing awareness and exposure, men are now brand- and fashion-conscious, making menswear a large market growing at an immense speed. Keeping in mind the potential and the demand in menswear, designers are now

getting into the space—it's like tapping the untapped. You have the luxury to define trends and create a market in line with international trends.

**And what are the key trends for the season?**

'Winter is coming.' Micro prints are dominating wardrobes across the globe. You'll see them everywhere, from casual polo T-shirts to formal shirts. Puffer coats and jackets are back again but with a more colourful palette. Pick a navy blue instead of regular boring black. Two-button and double-breasted blazers will be seen on the fashion-savvy among us. Then there's comfortable jogger pants entering as the hottest new bottomwear trend. For your feet, stick with ankle boots, brogues, hiking boots in tan and the all-season favourites—loafers.

**What's the easiest way to incorporate these trends in everyday wear?**

When wearing micro prints always keep it simple and never go overboard with too many prints. If you're wearing a micro print shirt, team it with solid/pastel trousers. Puffer/quilted jackets are casual and go well with well-fitted jeans and a V-neck T-shirt. Two-button blazers are the best option for business meetings—it's hard to go wrong with this style. Double-breasted blazers work well on lean guys. Jogger pants are basically dressed-up sweatpants. Treat them like your regular pants and wear them with casual shirts or T-shirts and sneakers or ankle boots.

**Tell us about three men whose style you admire and why?**

Amitabh Bachchan for his formal dressing style. With a more subtle and classy style statement, his sense of formal styling makes him the style king in the industry. I like Ranveer Singh for his quirkiness—he's flamboyant and full of energy which reflects

in his style as well. Rahul Bose, for his mix of casual, sporty and formal styles. His style is always charming, especially the way he carries off casual as well as red carpet looks.

**How would you describe your personal style?**  
Eclectic and fun!

**Do you only wear clothes you design for yourself?**  
Not necessarily. But since we don't design T-shirts and jeans, I prefer G Star jeans for their fit and I prefer American Crew T-shirts.

should have: Contemporary slim-fit jeans, a crisp white button-down shirt and tan shoes—tan is the new black! Trust me, your wardrobe is incomplete without a good pair of tan shoes.

**Is there anything in your wardrobe that is in excess?**

Shoes! I have over 175 pairs of shoes.

**What do you like to wear when you're at home and relaxed?**  
Jogger pants with V-neck T-shirts.

**What's the most important style advice you have for *Maxim* readers?**

Your self-confidence should also reflect in your styling. Experiment more with layering, breaking down ramp fashion and mixing it with basics. Tweak and mix and match patterns and designs. For inspiration you could follow Amazon Fashion's trend report.

**What's in store for Amazon Fashion in the future?**

The store today offers more than 5,000 brands and over 5,00,000 styles. Amazon.in is designed to meet the varying tastes and style preferences of everyone by providing a broad selection of designers and brands so that you can easily and instantly find and buy exactly what you are looking for.

We recently launched an international Shoe Store with brands like Roberto Botticelli, Desigual, CR7, Galliano, Allesandro Del Acqua.

**Are there any exciting collaborations coming up?**

Amazon India Fashion Week is happening this month and we are very excited about it. Also, you now have easy and convenient access to some of India's biggest designer labels. We're transforming the way India buys and sells fashion in the digital economy. ■

"INDIA IS FINALLY REALISING THAT

FASHION IS BEYOND A SPECIFIED

GENDER... MEN ARE NOW BRAND-

AND FASHION-CONSCIOUS, MAKING

MENSWEAR A LARGE MARKET

GROWING AT AN IMMENSE SPEED."

**Do you remember your first fashion buy?**  
I remember creating my first fashion bag for myself with *khadi* and handpainting it.

**Tell us about your current muse.**  
My current muse is a fictional young man who is in his late '20s, who travels the world, is adventurous and has a sense of intellect.

**What are the essentials every well-dressed man's wardrobe should have?**  
I believe every well-dressed man's wardrobe

YOUR NEW SEASON WARDROBE...

# shopped on

Taking you through the autumn/winter trends and selections that pack a punch as you update your attire digitally.

by MEHER BAJWA



## THE NEW PLAID

Lighter fabrics than wool and shades of blue set the tone for autumn.

### BUY THIS

Aurora Ecru shirt by americanswan.com ₹1,899



## THE BASEBALL TEE

Sportswear gets a luxe makeover this season. Designer Chris Stamp puts a sophisticated sporty spin on streetwear for the Puma X Stampd collection.

### BUY THIS

Stampd X Puma baseball T-shirt by Puma on bodega.com ₹4,000



## DOUBLE DENIM

The summer trend carrying over into autumn is to wear denim on denim—but stick to dark washes in single tones. Remember: Acid wash is for hipster punks, mostly.

### BUY THIS

Denim shirt by 16stitches.com ₹1,900

# line



## CLASSICS ARE BACK

We're talking Stallone's *Cobra* eyewear for this season's inspiration. You can't go wrong with a pair of these.

### BUY THESE

1. Jamaica aviators by Hidesign on [hidesign.com](http://hidesign.com) ₹4,295
2. Aviators by mangopickles.in ₹3,838



## MOTIFS ARE MAJOR

Graphic, animalistic, and print patterns are getting bigger and bolder than ever. Not your cup of tea? Pick a watered-down option of the trend.

### BUY THIS

- Handprint sweatshirt by Only & Sons on [koovs.com](http://koovs.com) ₹2,995



## CHUCK TAYLORS REIMAGINED

Each shoe combines mismatched toe boxes with an uneven dye pattern. The unique ghillie lacing style adds to the off-beat feel of the humble tennis shoe.

### BUY THIS

- Asymmetric Sneakers by Needles (Nepenthes) on [bodega.com](http://bodega.com) ₹24,000

## THE COOLEST COLLAB

Raf Simons brings bold and graphic design sensibilities to iconic Fred Perry styles with exaggerated print and a distinctively sharp fit. Plus, Chevron stripes are big this season.

### BUY THIS

- Chevron Pique shirt by Raf Simons X Fred Perry on [bodega.com](http://bodega.com) ₹13,200





### HARDCORE LEATHER

Replenish your wardrobe's leather supply with a sleek, preferably tan, motorcycle jacket.

#### BUY THIS

Leather jacket by Aditi Wasan on [fashionandyou.com](http://fashionandyou.com) ₹6,999



1



2



3



### SILK ROUTE BOMBER

Off-duty dressing gets a fresh perspective with the silk bomber. Pair it with a black shirt and jeans.

#### BUY THIS

Bomber jacket by New Look on [koovs.com](http://koovs.com) ₹2,995



### WINTER KNITS

The kind that remind you of Grandma but look like they're straight out of a runway lookbook.

#### BUY THIS

Cable knit sweater by [bodega.com](http://bodega.com) ₹6,200

### BOOT REBOOT

The ankle boot gets higher this season—experiment with fabrics and prints to get out of your fashion rut (aka regular lace-ups).

#### BUY THESE

1. Bootlegger boots by Woolrich on [bodega.com](http://bodega.com) ₹18,400

2. Hi-top brogue boots by Arden on [koovs.com](http://koovs.com) ₹7,500

3. Ankle boots by Weinbrenner on [bata.com](http://bata.com) ₹3,999

**PRINTS ARE MASCULINE**

Worried that prints will take away from your manly vibe? Not if you wear them smartly and peppered in small doses.

**BUY THIS**

Paisley shirt by Incult on jabong.com  
₹1,695

**OUTDOOR PIS**

These fatigue pants combine military aesthetic with athletic silhouettes and sport-centric detailing.

**BUY THIS**

Fatigue pants by Adidas Consortium X Wings + Horns on bodega.com ₹9,850

**THE VARSITY JACKET**

Comfort comes first in the colder months. This sleek, sports style outerwear will keep you warm and at the top of your style game.

**BUY THIS**

McKean Royal jacket by americanswan.com  
₹3,799

**BROGUES ARE FOREVER**

These casual bad boys are a staple for the autumn/winter season to be paired with your sports jacket or blazer.

**BUY THIS**

Tan brogues by Burton on jabong.com  
₹6,290

**THE SLIM-FIT BLAZER**

Runways were filled with classic suit tailoring on sharp fabrics, making for the perfect fusion product—semi-formal and formal.

**BUY THIS**

Blazer by Tom Taylor on jabong.com  
₹5,599

**'CAP'TAIN**

It's time to make minimalistic statements. An understated baseball-style cap with a natty print does just that.

**BUY THIS**

Algonquin Camp cap by Raised by Wolves on bodega.com ₹3,000



# THE T-SHIRT ROCK 'N' ROLL HALL OF FAME

That vintage band tee of yours may be worth a lot more than just jaded memories.



**A ROCK 'N' ROLL T-SHIRT** isn't just a piece of cotton underwear made fashionable through the magic of screen printing. It's a declaration of loyalty, of belonging. It's a way of saying "This is me" to every stranger who walks by. Sometimes it's a wink, sometimes a middle finger, sometimes an invitation. The shirt is the symbol of an attitude. And an attitude, rendered in ink on fabric, can long outlast the cultural moment that gave it life. It can survive countless tumbles in the dryer.

Which is why when you run across a shirt you owned years before—adorned with the Dead's skull-and-roses logo or the words 'ride the lightning'—in a vintage store, ₹20,000 might actually seem like a fair price.

This isn't just a shirt you're buying, after all. It's a work of art, a piece of history, and a statement of identity all at once. Then again, it's never too late to start anew, with a shirt fresh off a merch stand (or out of the back of a van, depending on the band). It will need some breaking in, but it's surely more rock 'n' roll than flashing an Amex and playing catch-up on the secondary market. Besides, T-shirts are a pillar of the economics of rock, especially now that recordings, reduced to easily shared code, don't bring in as much cash as they once did. Buying a T-shirt is often the best way to ensure that an artiste can continue to make music.

A T-shirt is an investment, financial and emotional. It shows support in a way that no amount of streaming ever can, because simple self-assertion is the essence of the rock T-shirt: It's the sartorial equivalent of screaming along with a chorus or throwing your hands in the air. These wearable texts contain history that's highly personal. At the same time, certain T-shirt images—Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* pyramid, the Sex Pistols one with NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS in black and the band's name in pink—speak of a time and tone so clearly that even people who haven't heard those bands' music have some idea of what it sounds like.

As a conveyor of messages, the T-shirt can't be improved. It is iconography on a chest, a kind of armour. Choosing Nirvana over Taylor Swift—or vice versa—makes a powerful and unmistakable statement. But perhaps most important is the way a T-shirt draws others in. Its wearer both stands out from the crowd and belongs to something bigger. The shirt is a beacon. Compatriots are drawn toward the wearer, all bound by the communal rebel spirit of rock.

We are one, they all say. We own this.

## AUTHENTICITY CHECKLIST

THE SUREST SIGNS OF VINTAGE LEGITIMACY, ACCORDING TO JAMES APPLEGATH, FOUNDER OF THE ONLINE VINTAGE RETAILER, DEFUNKD.

### BRAND ON THE TAG

GENERIC BLACK-AND- WHITE LABEL	'70s shirt	SCREEN STARS, MILLER, HANES, SIGNAL	'80s shirt	BLUE GRAPE, GIANT	'90s shirt
--------------------------------------	---------------	---	---------------	-------------------------	---------------

These are the most common brands of their times. And if you see a Gildan tag, be cautious: The low-priced brand is beloved by 2000s bands...and bootleggers.

### SHIRT QUALITIES

SINGLE STITCH ON THE BOTTOM SEAM	'70s shirt	SIZE LARGE OR EXTRA LARGE	'80s shirt	50/50 COTTON/ POLYESTER BLEND	'90s shirt
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These are the defining characteristics of vintage shirts—low quality and few sizes. And after decades of washing, it should fit like a medium or small.

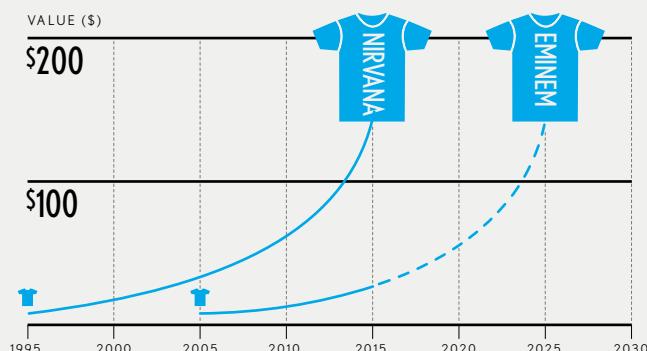
### IMAGE ON SHIRT

PAINT IS FLAKING OFF	'70s shirt	LOOK CLOSELY AND SEE TINY CIRCLES OF INK	'80s shirt	NOTHING IS IRONED ON	'90s shirt
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If a vintage shirt is multicoloured, it was made with many layers of paint. And check the image's edges: Old screen prints are made of tiny dots, unlike modern square pixels.

## HOLD ON TO YOUR SHIRT

YOUR OLD EMINEM FANDOM IS ABOUT TO PAY OFF.



In 2005, a used Nirvana shirt went for \$1. By 2007, values were climbing. Now the same shirt goes for \$200 and up. "Nostalgia seems to have a 10- to 15-year sweet spot," says Applegath. That's why he's currently stockpiling 2000s-era shirts from the likes of Eminem, the White Stripes, Destiny's Child, and Mary J. Blige. In a few years, he—and you, if you still own them—will be primed to cash in.

## STYLE SPECIAL

# THE RULES OF ROCK SHIRTS: A DEBATE

THREE MUSIC GEEKS WEIGH IN ON THREE WIDESPREAD, FAN-MADE RULES.

AGREE

DISAGREE

UNDECIDED

**BOB  
GRUEN**

LEGENDARY ROCK  
PHOTOGRAPHER



**CHLOË  
SEVIGNY**

ACTRESS



**TY DOLLA  
\$IGN**

RAPPER



### RULE NO. 1

NEVER WEAR  
A BAND'S SHIRT  
TO THE BAND'S  
LIVE SHOW.

"It shows you're not a newcomer. You've already gotten the shirt—you're a fan. And it would save you from having to buy a new one."

"I don't subscribe to this. It's cool to buy a shirt at merch before the show and put it on. Or tuck it into the back of your pants."

"Why not show support? What are you, a fucking hater?"

### RULE NO. 2

IF YOU CAN'T NAME  
THREE OF THE BAND'S  
SONGS, YOU CAN'T  
WEAR THE SHIRT.

"You can be attracted to a shirt for the graphics. That's what you show—the graphic. You're not singing a song as you walk down the street."

"Of course not. Not advised in case you get drilled."

"Whether you know one song or 10 songs, why wouldn't you show support?"

### RULE NO. 3

NEVER WEAR A CBGB  
SHIRT. IT'S BEEN  
CO-OPTED BY PEOPLE  
WHO WEREN'T THERE.

"It's funny to see tourists from Des Moines wearing it, but they wouldn't wear it if they didn't relate. CBGB is an attitude, not just a place."

"What venue or band with a truly great or iconic graphic hasn't been co-opted?"

"It's wrong to rep some shit if you've never been there."

## BUT THERE ARE NO RULES ON H

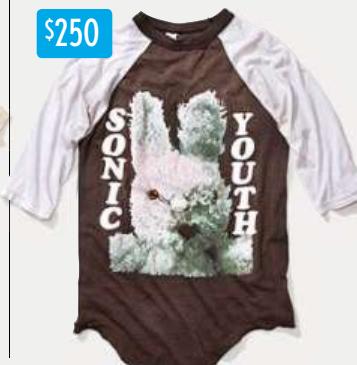
**"I WEAR SHIRTS INSIDE OUT. MY FAVOURITE IS MY BELOVED VHS OR BETA SHIRT. THERE IS SOMETHING SO COMFORTING ABOUT THEM PRESSING AGAINST MY SKIN."**

-JIM JAMES, LEAD SINGER OF MY MORNING JACKET



# THE COST OF COOL

FOURTEEN OF EVERY COLLECTOR'S DREAM SHIRTS, FROM THE PERSONAL STASH OF VINTAGE SELLER DAMIAN GENUARDI OF BROOKLYN'S VANDERBILT VINTAGE.



STYLED BY ANNA TOUPITSYNA

## GREAT MOMENTS IN SHIRTS

1956

The first-ever rock shirt is believed to have been made by an Elvis fan club.



1964

Promoters promise \$1 and a free Beatles shirt to all who welcomed the band to America at JFK airport. 4,000 fans came.



1979

Bob Marley becomes the first highly prominent band leader to have his portrait on an official shirt.





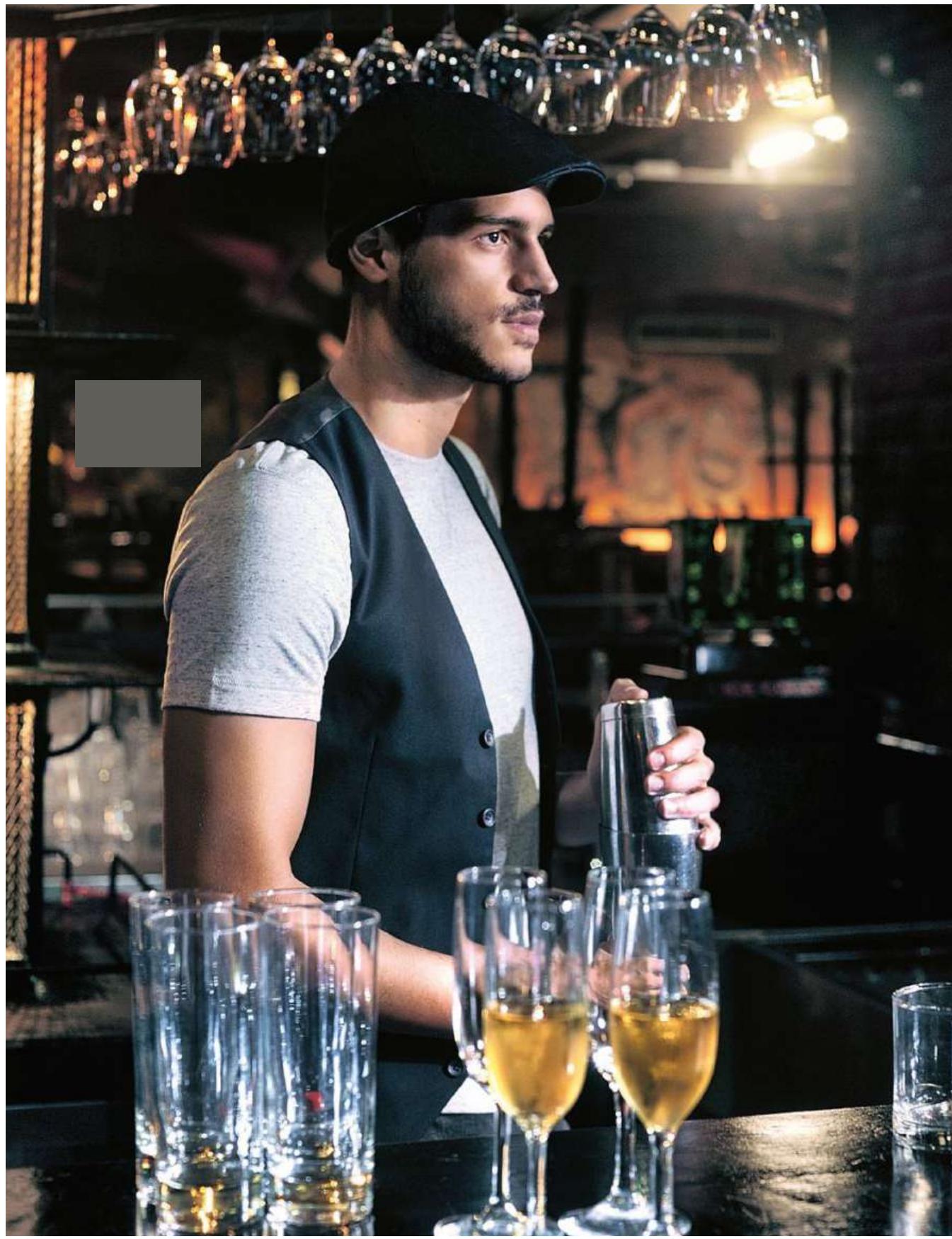
# A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR

And he must not fail to impress people there. Get your favourite beer or create your signature cocktail with style. Whether you go for a drink or bartending, find the style that fits you best.



Shirt by Cotton On;  
suit and vest by  
Topman; tie by  
Banana Republic;  
shoes by Clarks

**STYLE SPECIAL**





THIS PAGE

Shirt and jeans by  
Banana Republic;  
loafers by Clarks

OPPOSITE PAGE

T-shirt and cap by  
Banana Republic;  
vest by Topman

## STYLE SPECIAL

### THIS PAGE

Shirt and T-shirt  
by Cotton On

### OPPOSITE PAGE

Shirt by Cotton On;  
jeans by Banana  
Republic





## STYLE SPECIAL



### THIS PAGE

Shirt and jeans by Cotton On; loafers by Clarks

### OPPOSITE PAGE

Jeans and shirt by Banana Republic; shoes by Clarks

---

**STYLING**  
NATALIE  
LARASATI &  
RIA PRATIWI

**MODELS**  
FELIPE GOMES  
(F MODELS)

**SHOT ON**  
**LOCATION AT**  
B.A.T.S SHANGRI-  
LA HOTEL,  
JAKARTA



EVERY DAY WE MAKE IT. WELL.

BATCH



YOUR FRIENDS AT JACK DANIEL'S



Scion of Parisian cool  
**ALAIN FABIEN DELON**  
rocks the season's finest  
designer denim.

# MOODY BLUES

**DRESS BLUES:** Donning a denim suit doesn't have to evoke the dreaded "Canadian tuxedo," a denim-on-denim disaster that has unfairly plagued several men for decades. In truth, not only is the blue jean blazer roughing up the runways of Paris and Milan, it doesn't require fussy tailoring and has an undeniably rakish appeal. Consider it a "jean jacket" fit for the boardroom and the bar. —CHRIS WILSON



THIS PAGE

Jacket by Diesel Black Gold

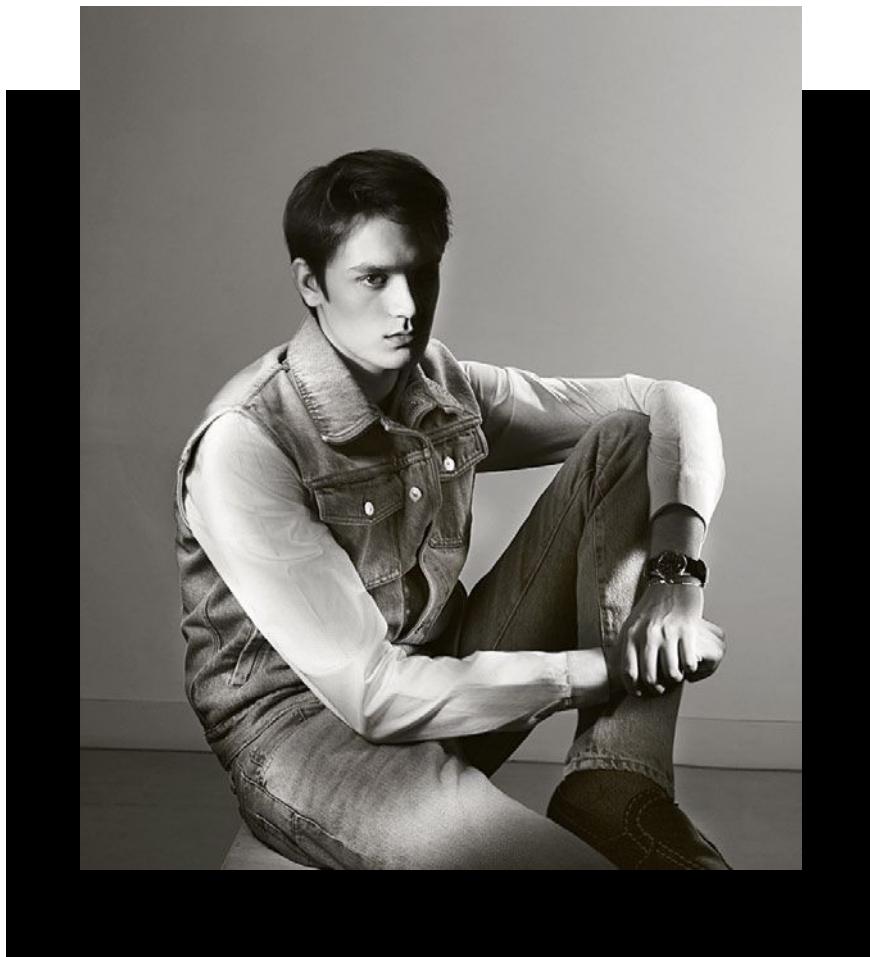
OPPOSITE PAGE

Blazer, T-shirt and pants all by Michael Kors; watch by Timex (worn throughout)

**STYLE SPECIAL**



**WITH HIS HAUNTED** eyes and louche, film noirish air, 21-year-old Alain Fabien Delon carries more than a strong, Gauloise-scented whiff of his father, legendary French actor Alain Delon. He's thin and lanky, thanks to equally impressive DNA passed down from his mother, Dutch model Rosalie van Breemen. *Vogue Hommes International*, which featured the model and actor on the magazine's fall/winter 2013 cover, likened him to a "young leopard." The same quality lent credibility to his role in the seductive sex comedy *You And The Night*, as a teen who deftly seduces a woman twice his age while partaking in a Parisian orgy. As for style, Delon sees it as "a tool one can use to express himself without saying a word." Here, he does just that in the season's best denim. —SARAH HORNE GROSE



THIS PAGE

Vest, T-shirt  
and jeans all by  
Dior Homme;  
loafers by Prada

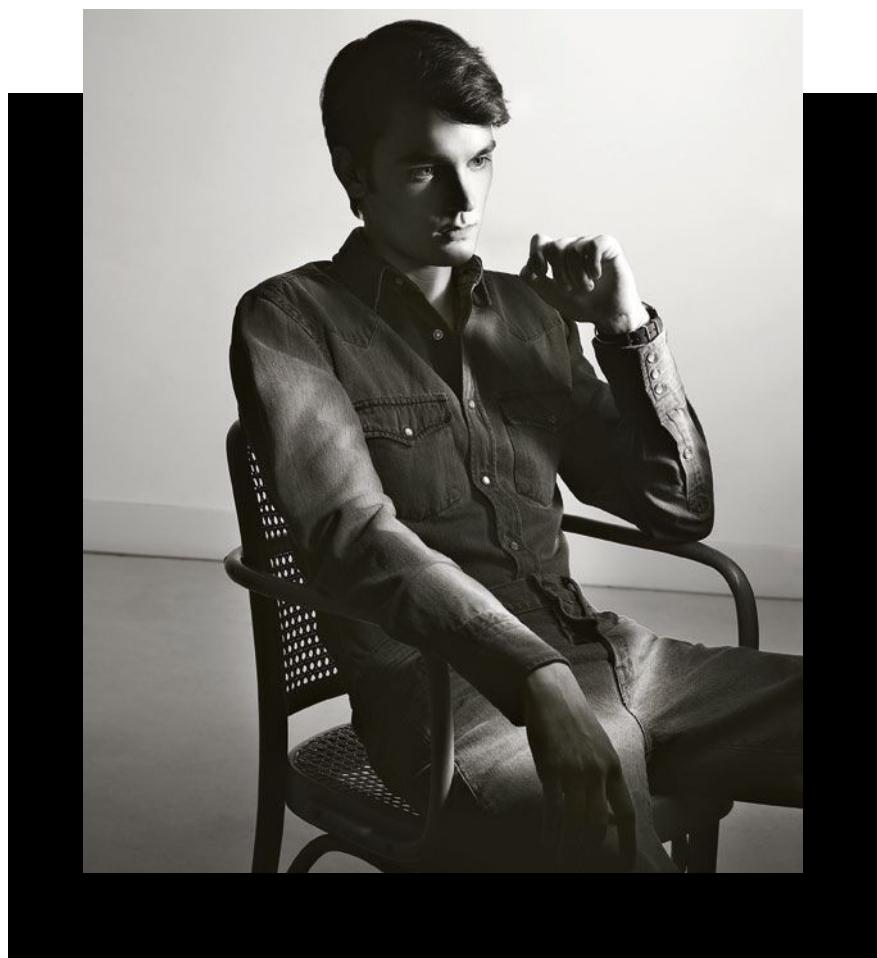
OPPOSITE PAGE

Suit and shirt by Polo  
Ralph Lauren; loafers  
by Prada

**STYLE SPECIAL**



**BLUE AND BOLD:** Here's a fashion-forward way to avoid the denim blues: Mix up your favourite jeans with some stylish signature pieces. Whether it's the perfect Western shirt, a well-worn denim vest, or even a trench coat that looks like something Bowie would have worn on the streets of 1970s Berlin, denim is all about exuding confidence and cool. —C.W.



THIS PAGE

Shirt and jeans by  
Tom Ford

OPPOSITE PAGE

Trench, shirt and  
jeans all by Kenzo

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**STYLING**  
WAYNE GROSS

**GROOMING**  
HESTER  
WERNERT-RIJN  
FOR BALMAIN  
HAIR AT  
UNSPOKEN  
AGENCY  
AMSTERDAM

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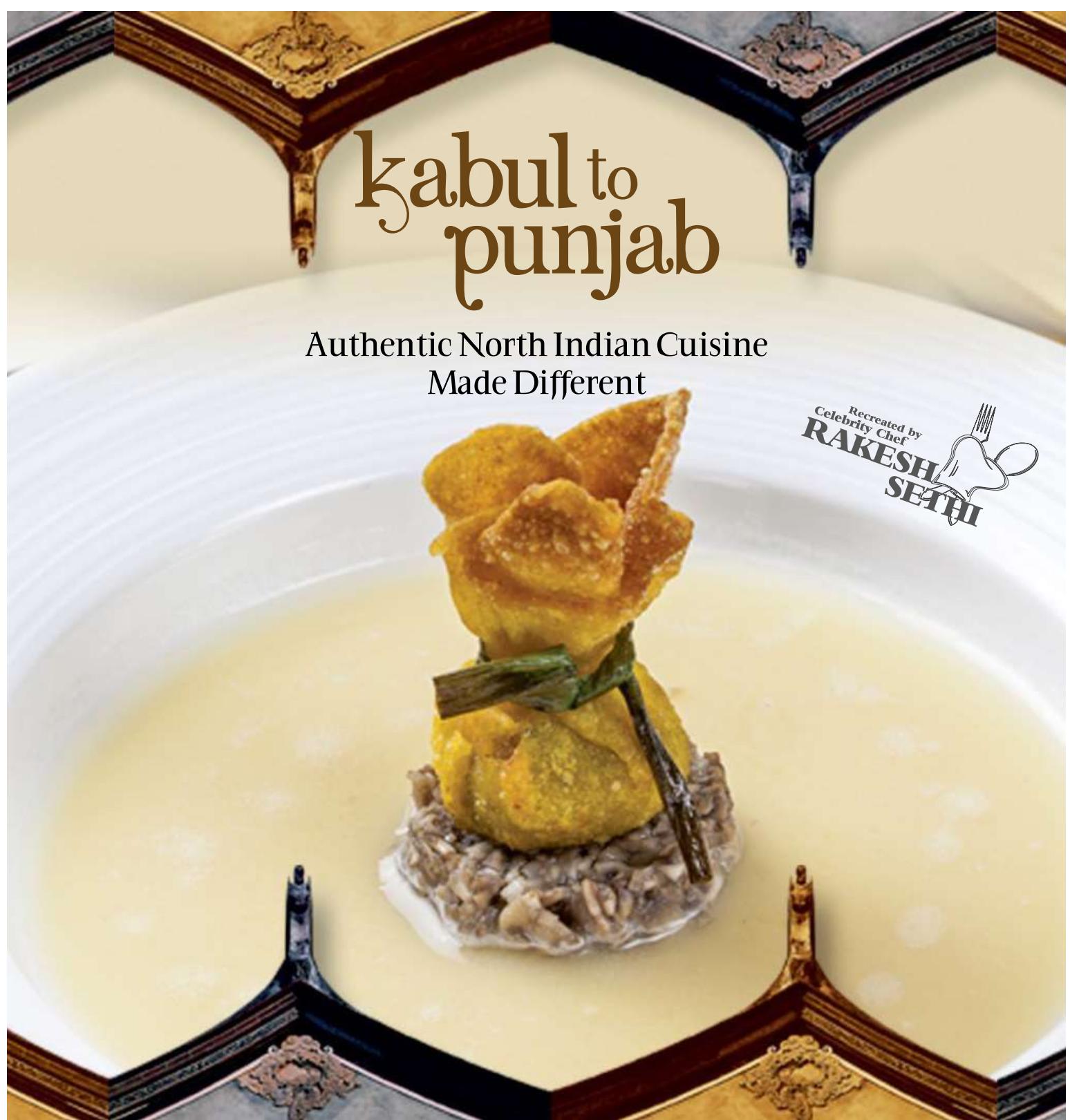
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## WEEKEND STAYCATION: THE GATEWAY HOTELS & RESORTS

For a luxury-meets-recreation experience, you needn't look further than this. Read on...

Nestled in the lap of the Aravali hills and spread over 20 acres, The Gateway Resort Damdama Lake, Gurgaon, is an urban sanctuary inspired by nature. The resort offers 78 spacious rooms, including two suites—each with serene views of the landscape. With the 20 acres having nearly 1,000 trees, the resort is designed as a weekend retreat on the outskirts of Gurgaon, creating a rustic homely atmosphere nestled in the natural environment.

The architecture attempts to dissolve the literal boundaries of the building to integrate the inside and outside. The artwork, including scrap metal sculptures, embroidered and handpainted textiles and studio ceramics, are conceived to give a similar experience by reflecting the essence of the rural habitat.

The adventure sports complex within the



resort includes activities such as zorbing, rock climbing, balloon bursting, blind minefield, spider web and more. The fitness centre called Active Studio, Celsius—the pool, the spa and the sports park provide perfect unwinding options. With enormous banquet space, the resort makes for an ideal event destination for conferences or weddings. Guests can indulge in a cosmopolitan mix of international cuisine and authentic regional home-style delicacies at the all-day

diner, Buzz, savour contemporary Chinese and Thai cuisine at Sian or relax over a few drinks at Swirl, the high-energy lounge bar. For the wellness-seeker, Buzz offers an appropriate food menu.

The hotel offers convenient access to Damdama Lake, a popular picnic spot that is home to more than 190 species of birds. Guests can also make trips to the hot springs at Sohna, the ancient Shiva temple or the Suraj Kund tourist complex.



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## MAXIM VISIT: HARD ROCK CAFÈ

Satiating your burger cravings every single day of the week, the menu at Hard Rock Cafè in DLF Place, Saket, New Delhi, is better than ever.

*Maxim* spent a food-fuelled afternoon at the Hard Rock Cafè recently and our palates were in for a pretty sweet treat. Here's what we tried and recommend you should order too: The Legendary Burger. Its classic American flavours are spot on and they'll never tell you what's in the secret sauce. Looking at the menu, you can tell it's been crafted keeping in mind burger-lovers of the vegetarian and non-vegetarian variety. The Chicken Burger features a chicken patty topped with avocado, pico de gallo and mozzarella cheese (the *Maxim* staffer writing this is suffering from serious hunger pangs currently).

If you're looking for more variety, opt for the Jumbo Combo because it gives you a taste of all their most popular starters and it's big enough to share between three to four people. Served with four different sauces, the vegetarian items include Santa Fe spring rolls, onion rings, potato skins and tomato bruschetta, and the meats include chicken wings and potato skins with bacon. If the food isn't incentive enough (such a shame!), Hard Rock Cafè also hosts several bad-ass music events—the latest being a full-house show by rockers Puddle of Mudd early this October.



# A CAGE TO BECOME THE RAGE

Mid-September, Delhi saw a first-of-a-kind event in India which gave amateur MMA fighters a perfect platform to get noticed, move up the ranks and turn professional



Turning pro is a dream for any athlete. But the path up the ladder is not clear cut and many factors, including luck, have to fall in place at the right time. However, on Sept. 19, the Underdoggs MMA Fight Night Delhi/NCR Amateur Championships, staged at the Underdoggs Sports Bar & Grill in Gurgaon, removed a lot of those factors from the equation. The event—in which SPORTS ILLUSTRATED INDIA was the official magazine partner—was a first of its kind in the country and gave the city's best amateur MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) fighters a chance to showcase their talent. For them it was an opportunity to move up the ranks and become professionals.

A cage was set up in the middle of the bar while 30 HD screens ensured the patrons and spectators didn't miss the action. The three-hour-long event, sanctioned by the AIMMA (All India Mixed Martial Arts Association), saw high adrenaline action—face

pounding, aerial throws, chokes and submission moves.

Most fighters in the event were making their debut in front of an audience and the excitement was palpable. The event was judged and coordinated AIMMA delegates and refereed by Alan Fenandes, who is one of the best MMA fighters in the country. The event was attended by some big names in Indian MMA, including pros who were on the Fight Card for (the Super Fight League) SFL #43's "Capital Collision".

Yashpal Singh, the CO-CEO of Underdoggs Sports Bar & Grill was elated by the success of the event. "This is what Underdoggs is all about, bringing sports to the forefront and aiding the growth of the industry. MMA is a major sport worldwide and has huge growth potential in India. We're thankful that we've got the opportunity to lend a hand to promote this sport. We hope to put forth many such fight nights on a regular basis."



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INDIA



### THE LEGENDS CUP™

It's not every day that you get to see some of India's biggest corporate houses put their business rivals aside for another kind of competition—on the football field. The unique feat was achieved at the Sports Illustrated Legends Cup—India's first and the biggest national corporate football tournament. Kicking off its first leg last month, the tournament was held at the Powerplay grounds in Bengaluru, on Sept. 19 and 20. About 37 of the country's biggest corporate houses coming on board as participants, the trophy for the Bengaluru leg was finally lifted by Maverick Solutions in both the men's and women's categories. The Cup will now organised in Mumbai, followed soon by Delhi. The national winners stand to win a trip to London.



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# NACHIKET BARVE

The designer extraordinaire, creative thinker and International Woolmark Prize nominee designs his last masterpiece.

**What's the last thing you design before you go?**

My future?! Since that won't be possible, I think it will be a retrospective of my work.

**Describe your last meal.**

Varan bhat (Maharashtrian version of dal chawal) and maybe Alphonso mangoes... I would like to go peacefully and without other animals inside me!

**Are you going to heaven or hell?**

Heaven, hopefully. I try to rake up air miles to there when possible.

**The one artist you wish you'd met and why?**

Madeline Vionnet in fashion for her innovation and focus, and Vincent Van Gogh to actually see him paint—I absolutely love his work!

**How do you die?**

Without regrets, I hope.

**The one thing you've been the most proud of?**

That my parents are proud of me.

**What's been your biggest regret?**

Not realising how precious time is when growing up...and not working out regularly.

**If you could be anyone else, who would you be?**

No one else. No one's life is perfect and known monsters are better than the unknown ones.

**If you could, who would you spy on from the great beyond?**

My own life in flashback and try and change things—get up earlier, work out more and stress less!

**Any apologies before you're gone?**

To a few people but it's too personal to share. Maybe my own family for taking their love for granted!



**While on Earth, what did you blow the most money on?**

Travel and books.

**Personally, what has been your favourite creation till date?**

The next one...but the concept I created for the International Woolmark Prize is up there—it's innovative, global and progressive. It's what fashion should be—intelligent and emotional!

**A book you would recommend every Maxim man should read before he dies?**

*The Old Man And The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.

**The one thing you're glad you'll never have to do again?**

Take a course in commerce in college and give accountancy exams—my balance sheets never tallied except once by compensating errors. I studied to be a CA before joining NID.

**Who would be your muse in the great beyond?**

Audrey Hepburn, she's dignified, classy and so timeless.

**What's the one thing you'd like to take with you to heaven?**

An edit undo key so I can change my mind when I want to.

**The one band/musician/artiste you wish to have playing live at your funeral?**

The soundtrack of *Life of Pi*!

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